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543

Spurgeon Street,

Santa Ana, California,

October 7, 1902.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

I received your letter with the appointment and the savings bank book. I am very much obliged to you for all your work for me and I hope that I can render you some service too on a certain time.

I see that I got a promotion. Well, that is very pleasant to me for I find out that life is somewhat dearer here than in the East. Clothing, for instance, is much dearer.

Mr. Dorsett was so kind to help me out of the financial difficulties by accepting a check from me for $25.00 to be paid from my bank book. Now we will see how the people in Washington act. I will write them, too, to bring the money over here so I don't think I will have to bother you any more with those unpleasant money affairs.

You write, a.o., "If I will only stick to it." Yes, I'll try. But it seems to me that the more a man travels, the less he feels himself attached to a certain place. A man is constantly wishing and longing for farther off and unseen places. Why do we have that desire?

There are a great many people here in California who have not been here so very long and it seems that all of them like the places connected with their childhood best. It seems that we are all, then, in a time in which we do not see the more unpleasant

things of life so clear as we do later on. But the children born and grown up here will always remember vividly their younger days when they are in a less blessed country than this. Here a boy can eat as many walnuts, peaches, figs, watermelons or prickly pears as he wants. The fruit rots on the tree, so plentiful is the supply.

I have made some walks out in the country. How dry everything is! The Opuntias are the only green plants in the hills and those are so remarkably well protected that you have to take care not to go too near to them. Their spines are simply awful. They go right through your clothes and even through one's shoes. And yet, notwithstanding the dryness, there is a charm about the scenery that makes you feel happy.

Last Sunday I was on the seashore and took a swim in the Pacific. It was rather cool, cooler than a man would expect in so sunny a land. They catch in the last days an immense amount of fish down there--6,000 pounds in one haul. America generally is a country of plenty, but California especially enjoys it.

Well, I come to the end again. I did not have much news to give so you will excuse this chat.

With my best greetings to you and Mrs. Pieters, I remain

Very truly yours,

FRANS N. MEYER.

Santa Ana, California,

October 20, 1902.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

I herewith send you the vouchers for salary. I filled them in as Mr. Pierce directed me and so I hope they are in good shape. There are six of them and they just cover this year.

I have not much news this time. I just got a check from the Savings Bank so I can draw my money here. I believe that this letter will cross probably a draft from you.

We have all the plants planted you shipped to us. Some of them show signs of growth already.

Well, I finish now.

Yours very truly,

F. N. MEYER.

703 N. Spurgeon Street,

Santa Ana, California,

April 6, 1903.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

You will be probably surprised to hear again from me. Yes, I didn't feel quite up to writing for a long time, but now I have to write.

I would ask you if you would be so good, please, and

send me the necessary papers for leaving the Department's service. I am going to resign.

Things are not satisfactory here to me and so I better change again. This is a great country and I have still much to see and to learn before I actually settle down.

I thought the date for resigning might be May 15th and when possible I would like to have a leave of absence from May 1st to May 15th. When that is not possible, however, the resignment date had better be May 1st.

When I came here in September, the 18th, I started working the next day, though my leave expired but October 4th so I do not think I ask too much, do I?

I am very sorry I have to give you all this trouble again, but Mr. Pieters, I think it is altogether better for me to go.

When you might have some suggestions I will be very glad to receive them.

I never answered Mrs. Pieters' letter and yours yet but when I am once at rest again, I'll surely do.

With my best greetings to you both, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER

703 North Spurgeon Street,

Santa Ana, California,

April 16, 1903.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

I am going to write you again.

Professor Pierce read to me part of the letter he is sending you but he skipped some part of the writing and it is more or less by accident that I came to see those skipped parts.

Now, I very strongly object to those sentences. It is not my roving disposition alone that makes me go from here. No, the situation here itself is not very pleasant. I have been treated here just like a very common laborer.

During the winter while we had very cold days, I didn't even have a stove or anything of the kind to warm me and when I made a few remarks about that, Mr. Pierce thought I had to take some manual labor and get warm again. Considering comfortable quarters, well, up at the office I have no room or desk at all. I used to have a desk, but when Mrs. Kelley came out here, she was given it and at the present it is used as a reading table. At the garden, yes, I have just a place there for temporary use and since a month or so a stove in it, but otherwise very little; soap or towels or a decent toiletroom are simply unknown luxuries.

And about books, my! Weeks and weeks ago Mr. Pierce offered to get some publication for me from the Department for as I am not on the list I don't get any and now a week or so ago we got a series of yearbooks and Farmers Bulletins for the library of Garden A. That's all.

But these are but little personal things. Another more weighty matter is the garden itself.

We are very crudely working here. Things that are necessary are entirely wanting. If it hadn't been for the energy and push of Mr. Dorsett, I believe we wouldn't even have had such things yet as manure, leafmold and a few glass frames. They procured those

during the absence of Mr. Pierce to Washington, because we needed them so badly, but I know Mr. Pierce never really approved it.

Then, the treatment of plants is by far not satisfying. Bamboo plants that should have been nursed and after being planted out covered with a mulch as Mr. Fairchild directed, are simply doing without it. Different plants received from S.P.I. died from lack of proper care and more of this kind of thing is going on.

One of the strange things here is that there does not seem to be an outlined plan. One does not know what is going to be next. Mr. Pierce is writing to missionaries all over the world, to forest rangers and to soldiers in the Philippine Islands to obtain plants for this place but I don't know what we are going to do with them. Besides that, this place is not the best spot to grow a great many things. But Mr. Pierce says he wants this place filled up. Well, we are filling it.

When I had a talk with you on a certain time, you said that the Department was thinking of establishing a garden for the propagating of newly introduced plants. Well, when I may give you some humble advice, then I would suggest you to look over many more places before you actually decide. A few of the disadvantages out here are: 1st, rather heavy frosts; 2nd, soil generally of a heavy and baking nature so that small plants are very hard to grow; 3rd, rather far from a point of importation and from a center of culture where one could go and compare and study the things he wanted in connection with his work.

About the collection of wild plants in foreign countries, yes, I would like that very much, but as Mr. Pierce wants everything

only for this place, I am somewhat doubtful about the possibility.

Well, Mr. Pieters, I did not say these things in anger or with any evil intentions but simply and honestly for justifying myself and explaining unsatisfactory conditions out here.

When the collecting scheme does not succeed, I hope you will have no trouble in getting my resignation and a little time of leave.

Hoping you will not quite forget me, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK L. MEYER.

Montecito, California

January 3, 1904

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

A few days have passed since I got your nice letter and I'll answer it now. Our letters simply crossed one another.

Yes, about not reentering Government Service anymore. I would not say that exactly, but I feel so depressed by different conditions, to stay here in California I may go perhaps in the service again, if I feel real well, but now my nerves are not in the best shape and this dry, always the same climate don't seem to be very good for me. I long for a rainier climate and for a bit more change in the weather. It is entirely too monotonous here in So. Calif. I think this is a splendid climate for old and sick people, but not for a normal, healthy person. No, it is too good. I think sometimes with

pleasure now a snowstorm would do me good or a heavy, warm rain, as we have them in the old country and in the East.

If you are going to have a talk with Mr. Pieters, please tell him that I am not in such a good nervous condition as to accept a governmental position, no matter how much I would like to work with you. You have seen it yourself, Mr. Dorsett, how miserable I began to feel in Santa Ana and I have to be very careful still.

Now, you know, I'll first see the St. Louis Fair and from there I don't know yet what to do. I may go down to Mexico or to some other tropical country to see the tropics and then I may return to the colder climate again. But that is the future, I'll let that rest yet.

So you have narrowed down to but 3 places. Well, I congratulate you on that; it will be a heavy burden taken off from you. I now hope that you may soon have only 1 left, as soon as you have had a conference at Washington.

And then you will build up, with all the energy you have got, a fine, laughing garden, which will beat P. P.'s patch all to pieces.

Well, with my best wishes for you all.

Yours very sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Montecito, California

February 9, 1904

Mr. P. H. Dorsett:

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Very, very much obliged for your offer, but no, I can't

accept. When you are established in Chico, I probably will pay you a a visit en route to St. Louis.

I got a little difficulty here with the employer and by mutual agreement I am going to leave a few months earlier than our first intentions were and so by March 1st. I am a free man again. Much obliged also for your last cordial letter, I am glad you all enjoy life again in the old home. Don't you feel the change of climate very much?

You ask me in that letter about a gardener who would be willing to take that position. Well, perhaps; there is that gardner here who wrote you about his grapevine fumigating and I heard he may come out of employment. When I hear some more from you about this, I will see him and talk things over. He is one of the brightest men here in this valley and remarkably well posted about all things concerning our trade.

I would like to see Chico. They tell me it gets quite cold up there in winter, but there are frostless belts. Is that so?

Will you be so kind please and thank Mr. Pieters too, for all his kindness concerning me. He probably don't like me to roam so much, but the song of liberty is so sweet. Now in these last days the sun shines brighter, the birds sing more gaily and everything seems more laughing, now that my prison walls are crumbling away under the steady hammer strokes of father time. I would like to be in your place just for one day and see the old friends again in Washington. I think I would find quite a few new faces, are'nt there?

Well, I'll conclude, with my best wishes to you and your

family and my kind rememberings to Mr. Pieters, Dr. Smith, Mr. Oliver and others who may know me yet, I am

Yours sincerely,
FRANK N. MEYER.

Guadalajara, Mexico,

April 28, 1904.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

You will probably be surprised to get a letter from this part of the world. Yes, I felt I had to see the tropics and so I took a steamer from San Francisco and went to San Blasand. From there I walked to a short distance from this city. I covered over 200 miles of territory by foot and saw some of the most beautiful scenery. My intentions are now not to walk very much more, as the heat and the lonsomeness are often a bit oppressive. I intend to take a train to Mexico City and stop over at a few interesting places. From there I return to the United States again, though I would like to work a couple of months in this country to learn a bit more about the native fruits and vegetables.

There is a whale of a lot of fruits here I have never heard of before and some taste very good, though others are decidedly flat to my taste. I like the mangos best of all. They are delicious and so cheap, only from one to two cents apiece. I've eaten many a one already. The mamees are rather good too, so are sapota-chico, but as for cherimoyas, ciruelos, aguacates, I don't care much for them. The natives, though, seem to enjoy them. It would take me a whole time to learn how they prepare some fruits for some cannot be eaten raw.

Do you think, Mr. Pieters, that the Department would like to have some of those fruits for introduction? If so, I would be glad to hear from you. I will be in Mexico City within some days and will go to the Post Office and see if there is some mail for me.

Now I will have one trouble, that is in getting out of this country. I would like to leave by way of Vera Cruz or Tampico and go by steamer to New Orleans and proceed to St. Louis, but there is yellow fever in both ports and by rail gets a bit too expensive. Well, perhaps the fever clears out by the time I am there. I have roughed it so well now the last time that I am pretty well hardened against all kinds of drawbacks. I sometimes had a hard time getting sufficient food in the country; those poor Mexicans live by the day and when one enters such a cluster of huts (a village?) between meal times, everything eatable has been consumed and one has either to wait for hours or go on the march to the next one which is, Heaven knows, how many miles away. And if one is lucky enough to get food, it is tortillas, which are

little thin pancakes, baked without grease or salt on a hot earthen pan and consists of handground maize (corn) flour. Sometimes one gets some frijoles, too. These are small brown beans. OH, one gets accustomed to it, but one feels that there is not much substance in marching on day after day.

Well, I think I'll finish now. My best regards to Mrs. Pieters; also to Dr. Smith and other gentlemen who may ask for me. Did Mr. Oliver go to California?

Hoping to hear a few words from you, Iam

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. Are there, pernaps, some things I can be of service to you while in Mexico?

Guadalajara, Mexico,

April 28, 1904

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

After a long, tiresome walk from S. Blas on the Pacific Ocean I have brought it as far as Guadalajara. I don't think to walk very much more; it is too hot and too dry.

I covered over 260 miles of territory by foot anyway and that is at least something, for food and drink are by far not always easy to obtain and roads, well, I will only say I never saw such miserable roads in all my life.

There are a whole lot of strange fruits in this country, some I never heard of before. I'll write to Mr. Pieters now and see

if I can send some to the Department. Perhaps you may want some too, if you are fixed up for it already.

If you may want to write me a few words, after a couple of days I'll be in Mexico City and will go to the P.O. and see.

How are things in Chico? I hope all right.

With my best regards to Mrs. Dorsett and the children, I am

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Cuernavaca, Mexico

May 23, 1904

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

As you see, I am still in this country and also alive. I left Mexico City a couple of days ago and walked again to this place. It is about 60 miles and I did it in 2 days, so that is pretty quick.

I stayed much longer in Mexico City than I intended, but I waited for mail which didn't come tho, and as life is pretty high down there I concluded to leave. I looked around for a position too, as I would like to learn more about the native fruits and plants, but this country is no good for an poor white man.

In the first place, there is plenty of ordinary labor, who work for very little, as there needs are extremely few and secondly there is no demand for high class labor, at least not in my profession. So now, I will go to Vera Cruz and go back to the good old states. If I might strike a good thing, I may remain a while yet in this country, but from whar I have seen already, this does not seem to be very likely.

This a great country for different fruits and plants. I

thought I knew quite some plants, but here I find out how limited ones knowledge really is. There hardly passes a day, especially in this region, that I do not discover some unknown fruits or flowers. If those Mexicans only would improve their fruits, how far more pleasure they could have from them. They seem to grow everything from seeds and as a result one finds on the markets, apricots with the size of cherries and cherries like red currants, peaches all clingstones and small and hard and all those strange fruits like the mammeas, cirnelas (2 kinds), Sapatos (4 kinds), bananas (5 or 6 kinds), mangoes (4 varieties), limes (sour and sweet ones) and oranges. Well, I don't know all yet, but all those things are just eaten as nature produces them. One can really find sometimes a whole lot of varieties mixed together, probably picked from one garden where the owner has sown a lot of stuff.

When once the American nation begins to extend more southwards then they will improve things, for the natives do not seem to feel the needs of better things. You have no idea, Sir, how simple the rural population lives. In the hot regions they simply have as a dwelling, a structure with walls consisting of palm stems, reeds or branches from trees and the roof is made from palm or bababa leaves or long grass. How they can live in these places for an whole life time is a puzzle to me, for rain, dust, insects and everything can come in. I slept in one hut near San Blaze, where I had to climb up a slender tree stem with cuts in it to reach the bamboo sticks upon which I and one part of the family slept, the other part slept on the clay floor underneath us. I heard big insects crawl above me on those palm leaves and was afraid a big spider or a scorpion might drop down on me, so I didn't sleep exactly very quietly.

But for scenery this is a wonderful country; high mountains

and deep valleys follow in succession. Here, where I am now for instance I hardly think I ever saw a finer spot. We are here in a lovely valley with range after range of mountains around, one peak away in the distance is an extinct volcano covered perpetually with snow, for its height is over 17,000 feet. Its name is Popocatepetl, an easy name, aint it?

And such a delightful climate. California aint in it, no matter how much the papers lie about it. We are at an elevation of about 5,000 feet and so it is not so warm as farther down and yet not so chilly as it is sometimes in Mexico City, which is at a 7,000 foot elevation. The fine towering royal palms (Oreodoxa regia), natives of Cuba, grow most beautifully here. The mango trees are loaded down with fruit. Corn is to be found at any stage of development, from just sprouting to goldening of ripeness. This morning I saw fields with a fine stand of Manihot (the Sapiocca plant) and on other places sugar-cane, or peanuts, or watermelons, or sweet potatoes, or coffee bushes, or tall or dwarf bananas were to be seen. Truly wonderful the variety of things that can grow here.

Now we globe trotters, we miss much, like an home life and comforts, but sometimes we get our rewards too, when we are able to lay eyes upon such landscapes.

A few days ago I found the genuine wild potato growing at elevations between 9,000 and 10,000 feet. Awful small they are and I am really surprised that the modern "murphies" are their descendants. The tubers are not larger than hazelnuts and the plants are small, too. I felt just as glad as if I had found a nugget, for a botanist can have his "strikes" too, as the miners term it.

The rainy season has started and it may take me somewhat

longer now to travel, as the roads may be sometimes in bad shape, for roads there are here, for which the name trail is far too noble, especially in the mountains where one slides from one boulder on another. It will take me probably 14 or 15 days to reach the city of Ialapa, State of Vera Cruz, Mexico, and if you might feel to drop me a few lines, I will call at the P. O. there. Did my card reach you from Guadalajara? I do not know really where you are living now. When in Frisco I saw in the paper that there were some difficulties in settling the garden matter at Chico, so I don't know. Neither did I hear from Mr. Pieters. Perhaps there happened something with the mail.

Well, I will close now.

Receive with Mrs.Dorsett and the children my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Jalapa, Vera Cruz, Mexico

June 13, 1904

Mr. P. H. Dorsett,

Chico, California.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

My cordial thanks for your nice letter of June 1st, which I received a few days ago. I was glad to hear again from you. I am living now in a strange land, where I the language bu partly understand and it does do one good to get a letter from a friend in that dear English.

I see from your writing that you are pretty well fixed.

Well, I am glad for that. After a man has had so many difficulties and for so prolonged a time, as you have had, then he deserves a bright shining sun on his path of life.

You write you are getting bids on a $1500 irrigation plant. My, do you need such an big affair down there, too? I thought irrigating up North was not necessary. They told me, that as the rainy season starts much earlier and lasts much longer, there was so much moisture in the ground the rainless summer months that irrigating was not necessary. And 80 acres of land, horses, barn, lath house, yes, it will be a big place. I wonder how P. P. thinks about this. He must be as mad as a spider. He with his one or two rented acres and his empty plans for an universal, enormous Plant Improvement Garden in S. A.

Yes, I would like to see the place and the scenery. It must be fine and at the same time I would like to eat a few more of those nice sweet potatoes which Mrs. Dorsett so well knows to prepare. I often think of all such things, here, so far away and especially now. You must know I got a little attack of fever while in the hot regions and was quite unwell, but now I soon hope to be better again. I will take a good rest and I must be very careful with eating different foods and then I go back to the States.

There in Jalapa the climate is all right, again it is rather cool than warm. We are at quite an elevation and many mountains all around us. During my trip from Cordoba to here I found interesting hot house plants grow wild along the roads. It always gives one a curious curious sensation to see such old acquaintances, as begonias, sensitive plants, dahlias and others grow as weeds along the roads.

There are also growing quite a number of wild grapes in Mexico and I think they may find disease resisting species in this country. A man learns much, how plants grow in their native state and I know quite a few people frown upon my roaming around, but I personally have learned more about the true nature of plants during this 2 months trip in the wilderness than all the bookds or hothouses could have brought me in 10 years.

I would have liked to hear the opinion about California from Mr. Oliver. Was the state as a whole a disappointment to him, as it is to almost everyone who comes out for the first time?

Yes, I knew that Mrs. Velley and Mr. Harry Tubs were married. Between you and I, does he know all about her? Well, perhaps he found out. This is a strange world, isn't it?

I send you also a few seeds which may prove of some value to you. I don't send any of the more tropical fruits, for I know it is too cold for them up north. I saw it in Santa Ana and even in that favored spot, Montecito, how hard those things do in California. The Sapoto Chico is the only one which probably will not grow at Chico, but as it is such a nice tasting fruit you may try it.

Well, I'll conclude now. Wishing you much further success and also the best regards to Mrs. Dorsett and the Children, I remain

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

List of seeds from Meyer

No. 1. Sapoto chico - A nice tasting fruit. In size and shape not unlike the Eastern persimmon. The pulp is brownish and of a sweet, pleasant taste.

No. 2. Mexican apricot - These apricots are small in size, but have sometimes a nice flavor. They seem to be all seedlings and vary as thus a great deal.

No. 3. Garvansa (prob. Cicer ariebinum) - A vegetable which is eaten like green peas. On some markets they sell it roasted in the shell and it tastes well. Grows on dry but rich lands.

No. 4. Prunus sp. - Mexican cherry - This ia an cherry inferior in size and flavor to the ordinary cherry. The tree is evergreen and can be used as an ornamental shade tree.

No. 5. Fraxinus sp. - Mexican ash - A very handsome shade tree which grows quite a size. These seeds are from a very spreading variety which grew on dry, rocky places near Guadalajara.

No. 6. Lupinus sp. - A rather ornamental, small lupine with blue spikes which vary in color from whitish to deep indigo blue.

No. 7. Ricinus sp. - A castor oil bean with very showy, red spikes. May prove to be an ornamental plant.

No. 8. A yellow chilipepper - A handsome pepper, much sold in the market of Jalapa, of a bright showy yellow. Quite pungent.

Received from Frank N. Meyer, June 19, 1904.

Gathered in Jalapa, Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Birmingham, Alabama,

July 25, 1904

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

You see I am way down in Alabama now. I went via Jalapa, Mexico to Vera Cruz, then by steamer to Havana and from there again to New Orleans. I couldn't get any work down there and so I got up here. I worked a little while here, but the work and climate are far from satisfactory and so I am going to leave. I will try St. Louis now.

It seems to be pretty hard just now to find a congenial position. It is the dull season anyway.

I would not be surprised if I didn't come back again to California after a while. There are really more opportunities out West than here in the south. First, however, I must make a little dough, for all that traveling empties ones pocketbook mighty quick.

Hoping you are doing No.1 in every respect, I remain

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. My best regards to Mrs. Dorsett and the young ones.

St. Louis, Missouri,

July 29, 1904

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Dorsett:

At last I found a nice position again. I am going to work next Monday in the Mo. Bot. Gardens. I hope it will be a satisfactory employment on both sides. It is a good thing I got this place, for financially I am in pretty bad shape.

Hoping soon to hear from you, I remain

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Missouri Botanical Garden,

St. Louis, Missouri,

Aug. 11, 1904

Mr. P. H. Dorsett,

Chico, California.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Your letters came to me a few days ago and I was glad to hear from you.

Yes, I left Jalapa a few days after I sent the letter off. I begun to feel much better again, and I wanted to get out of the country for the rainy season had started in real style and there was little pleasure in getting wet all the time. I took a train to Vera Cruz City abd after having spent one night in that yellow and other fevers ridden city, I left the next day and we steamed via Progresso to Havana, Cuba. I had to stay 5 days in quarantine before I was allowed to roam at liberty. The climate is awful hot and moist in Havana and my bowel trouble and fever which I contracted in Mexico came right away back and the 2 weeks I was in Cuba were far from enjoyable to me.

Well, the fares on the steamers to New Orleans were greatly reduced and so I went back to this country, which I come to regard already as my native land, for after having been thro those Indian and Spanish civilizations, one surely appreciates your American way of living, not withstanding many shortcomings. Well, I rested a week in N. Orleans and then proceeded to Birmingham, Ala., where I worked a short while and then came to here.

You ask me about any nutbearing plants in Mexico. Well, I have seen very little of them. It was too early in the season, too,

to see any fruit of that kind on the markets. They eat many peanuts, there, but mostly small varieties and also the pecans I saw were just seedling fruit. The Mexicans need some American push to improve their fruits and vegetables.

About the sowing, I can say that it is generally good to sow seeds as soon as they are received. That is, when they come in spring and summer and excepting annuals, fall and winter will even do, providing you have the temperature in your hands. I could have sent you more seeds but many things require more heat than you have down there and for others -- I do not know exactly in what line your garden is going to be. Plant Introduction Garden means a tremendous deal, you know.

Yes, I will surely make you once a visit and see things, but my dear Sir, money is the article needed and just now I am not over plentifully supplied with it. I am sorry the title question is not clear yet. I hope it may soon be tho, for beside that you'll have your troubles. I know what it is to give life to an entirely new affair and to make a fine show of it the first few years. After those first years things begin to go far better and you'll look back upon all that hard work with great satisfaction and consider it as a bad track of road thro' which you have driven your beams successfully.

Mr. Oliver wrote me a couple of days ago and as I had done him the question of how he liked California, he told me he liked it very well, but hadn't had really time enough to see things as long as he would have liked and he couldn't blame me for not loving So. California exactly for he said, "I do not think it fit for a healthy

young man". Yes, So. California is surely too equal in climate, no change enough. I think where you are now, things are quite different. I wonder if you will get that beautiful change of colors of leaves as we will soon get here, and how warm your summer is and how cold the winter will be.

Yes, as you say, I may feel the heat and cold here in St. Louis. Well, if it gets too bad for me, then I go away. California occupies still a very large place in my heart. I have spent there most of the time since I lived in the U. S. When one sees the Californian display of fruit at the World's Fair, one feels really proud to have lived in that state and not withstanding the troubles I also had there, I do love the Golden State.

O, about the Fair. This is a grand show. I wasn't able yet to see much more than a general view of it, but it is an immense affair. It surely takes one a week to see things. Horticulture could be much better but in Agriculture there is a wonderful , fine display. The exhibit of the U. S. Dept. of Agri., is worth looking at, not to say anymore. I spent a couple of hours alone to look at the display of the Bureau of Plant Industry. The new fruits and plants they are importing, plant breeding with original specimens as proof and so many more things. And all that Agricultural machinery they have is something wonderful. Beside Horticulture, Agriculture Forestry and a few other things, I haven't seen much yet. There is so much and by studying things intelligently one gets so tired that one has to stop after having walked around half a day.

What I think about this Garden where I work now. Well, it surely is a very beautiful place and they have a very rich collection of plants. I never expected St. Louis to possess such a fine

garden, for one hears so little about it outside this city. Whether I will have much of a future before me here, I don't know. They do not much experimental work but perhaps they may start and perhaps once I may work in my most favorite line of work, plant breeding.

Well, Mr. Dorsett, I see I filled nearly 8 pages so I will finish by wishing you the best of success and the conquering of all difficulties. My best regards to Mrs. Dorsett and the Children.

Yours very truly,

FRANK N. MEYER.

St. Louis, Missouri

September 15, 1904

Dear Mr. Pieters:

I was glad to hear again from you. Your welcome letter reached me a few days ago. My, my, you are travelling, too, I should say. You will soon be there. You can't say there is a state in which I haven't been.

Yes, I hope to be at the Missouri Botanical Garden when you may find the time to look me up. If it is after 6 P. M. though, I will be home at 1562 Old Manchester Road which is near the Gardens.

You will wonder how I managed to have this paper. Well, I have been juror for a short time at the World's Fair and Forestry was our division, so that explains that.

I just had a letter from Mr. Dorsett. He says he is very busy at present but he likes the place very much. Yes, If I hadn't come by way of Mexico to St. Louis, I would have seen the place, but now I have to postpone a visit to him for a long while yet.

Well, hoping to see you before long, I finish, with best

regards to Mrs. Pieters, also.

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Missouri Botanic Garden,

St. Louis, Missouri.

December 28, 1904

Mr. P. H. Dorsett,

Chico, California.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

You probably are surprised to receive a letter from this place again; I suppose you expected me to be dead or gone again somewhere else. No, neither is the case as yet, but life is so uninteresting of late that I write as little as possible. Still, we have to live it thro', whether we like it or not.

In the beginning of November I saw Dr. Galloway, who told me you were going very well out in Chico. Well, I surely was glad to hear that. It shows that the folks in the capitol city are with you.

Some weeks ago I also saw your name mentioned in the Pacific Rural Press as going to give a lecture at some institute, good so. It is so much nobler to help your fellowmen than to leave them in the mud alone, as somebody farther south seems to practice.

How is it now with your place? I suppose it is quite cold already. Did the leaves have fine fall colors too, just like in Old Missouri? I envy you the fine mountains around for that is a thing I miss very much down here. Here the icy winter is in full blast. A few weeks ago we had some heavy snowfalls and low temperatures, but during the Xmas week it got nice and mild again and everything became

liquid mud, so you congratulated yourself if you had crossed a road without having stuck in it. Now, however, it is quite cool again. To show you the sudden change, I may mention that it was 56 Monday afternoon and during the night and the next day there blew an icy blizzard which brought the mercury down to 3 above zero this morning. After I have spent the last years in warmer climes, it comes quite as a change to me

Why is Chico called by that name? (The Spanish name for small, little). I saw in the papers that they are tearing fine, bearing orchards out by the roots in Oroville, to sluice and dredge the land for gold. That is close by you, ain't it?

Well, I come to a close now. It is too late to wish you a Merry Xmas but I am not too late for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you, Mrs. Dorsett and the children.

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

TELEGRAM March 11, 1905

A. J. Pieters,

Washington, D. C.

GREAT THANKS FOR YOUR OFFER. ACCEPT IT. WILL BE READY ANY TIME BUT WOULD LIKE TO STAY HERE A FEW WEEKS YET

FRANK N. MEYER.

St. Louis, Missouri,

March 10, 1905.

Mr. A. J. Pieters:

It came as a very great surprise to me, your telegram this evening. I am greatly obliged to you for this rare offer.

I don't like to leave this place just now, the fall time would have been far more pleasant, as we are quite busy just now, but--the chance that such a thing will ever happen again is so slight that I concluded to accept.

Now, I would like very much to know what my work would be. I suppose to help Prof. Sargent in collecting material for the Arnold Arboretum and also to collect seeds and cuttings of desirable trees, shrubs and other plants for the Department of Agriculture. North China isn't very much explored yet, for so far as I know. It is quite a wild country as I understand and one is most of the time pretty far away from civilization. Well, that's all right. I had some experience of that while in old Mexico, so that will not be a novelty to me.

You ask me in your telegram, "Can we talk it over?" Do you mean by telephone or in person? I suppose you mean the last. Then I'll have to go to Washington unless you may have intentions of coming out in this direction.

This evening I sent you a telegram which you got, I suppose, many hours ago.

Well, thanking you again and hoping to receive a few more directions, I am

Yours very respectfully,

F. N. MEYER.

St. Louis, Missouri,

March 15, 1905.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

This morning I received your welcome letter, for I live, of course, in somewhat of an expectant mood. I surely do realize the importance of this journey. It will also be a trip in which losts of hard work has to be done. But we are on the world to do those things.

About the compensation, well, I think I leave that better to you. I haven't any idea how big my expenses will be in that country.

Does the Government supply us with outfits, like suits, arms, horses, or any other things we may need?

I wish St. Louis was not 1000 miles away from your place of residence. With a few mintues' talk one may receive more valuable information than in receiving scores of letters.

Well, hoping to hear again from you, I am

Yours very respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

April 3, 1905.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

Your letter which was sent off from Washington March 18 came to me last Saturday, April 1st. It had been put among Mr. Hedgcock's mail and this gentleman has probably been away all that time so I got it only 12 or 14 days over the time. Well, those little things happen once in awhile and it is better not to worry about them.

I received one letter from Mr. Fairchild stating he was going to see Prof. Sargent and that the expedition probably would be postponed but I didn't get anything after that letter. But I think it is postponed by this time and perhaps will not occur at all.

Yes, if it goes through, then that compensation problem has to be solved and as you ask for some suggestion on my part, I

would say, how would $50.00 a month be? A man's expenses in a foreign country are always larger than one at first thinks and one often buys things one cannot well get vouchers for.

If you have some spare time please answer me on these few questions:

How long would this exploration last? I see from your first letter that I would have to make myself a career as an agricultural explorer, but as I know how immensely big that territory is and how slow travelling goes generally down there, I think it may be quite a time that one has to be there.

Another question is: Am I going to be alone or with a party after Prof. Sargent departs?

Do I have to take pictures? I only know a little about photography and if I have to do it I will start directly to learn that art.

In one way I am not sorry I am not going yet for the Magnolia trees in this garden are in full bloom and it is a soul inspiring sight to see these beauties. Spring is nice after that long, cold winter.

With best regards,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

St. Louis, Missouri,

April 25, 1905.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

It is again a couple of weeks ago since I received your

letter. I didn't feel right of late and so I am a little late in answering your writing.

I have inquired a little in this garden about another young man thoroughly posted in horticulture to go with that expedition but there are not many of such people to be found. One man here, J. Kellogg is his name, would like very much to go and he knows more about native North American plants than any one around here, but he is 43 already and perhaps not entirely desirable.

About Mr. O., well, that is a pretty hard question. If he gets to be the recognized leader of the expedition and can arrange all things as he wants them, well, then, perhaps I rather would not go. But if he goes not with absolute power, then I think we will pull along fairly well together. A man has to give and take a little wherever he goes.

I am taking up photography of late, but I have very little time to spare for just in this time we are very busy. It is my duty to raise c.a. 10,000 different plants from seeds and it is quite a strain on one's brain, the more as climatological conditions differ so much here with other places where I was taught the trade.

Dr. Trelease is back again from Mexico, but will very soon leave for Europe. He said today to me he rather wished the expedition wouldn't go so that I could stay with them here but he could perfectly understand that I would like to go very much.

Well, if I were a married man or had my relations closer by, perhaps I wouldn't travel so much but now--things are different. A man knoweth not for what he is living.

With best regards,

Yours respectfully,
FRANK N. MEYER.

St. Louis, Missouri,

July 4, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Yesterday I received both your letters and telegram and wired you also that I accept the position.

I am extremely thankful to you for this appointment, and also wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Galloway, Mr. Pieters and Mr. Oliver and other gentlemen who have given you such nice statements about me that you offer me such an important position, without ever having seen me.

It is certainly a very fine opportunity to do some noble work for this, my adopted country, and when health stays with me and bad luck or accidents keep away, I surely will hope to prove that I realize the grandness of this exploration of a practically new field. Just now I am almost burning to have a talk with you about with how many we will be, the language (I only know a few words of Chinese), the transportation of collected material from the railroadless interior to the harbor towns and many more things.

About the salary, I may say that I am more than satisfied with it. It far exceeds my expectations.

I hope to be at your office Friday morning and I do not intend to return to St. Louis. I am giving my work here in the Botanical Garden the finishing touches and transferring it over to others, so even if we don't go away very soon from Washington, I think it is better for me to see a few things in the East (like the Arnold Arboretum) than to stay longer down here.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your private check. I hardly think I'll use it as I am in much better financial standing now than when I arrived here from Mexico but it was very kind of you.

Hoping to see you soon, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Boston, Massachusetts.

July 15, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

As you see I am now in the Athens of America and feel all right except a trifle tired from all that hurrying around. What a most beautiful arboretum this is. I never expected to see such an enormous variety of trees and shrubs.

Well, before I go on on this thing I had better first give you an account of what I did the days before. I left Washington with the midnight train and arrived in Westbury a little before ten o'clock Sunday morning. Mr. Hicks awaited me at the station as I had phoned him and we spent the day in looking over his whole nursery and it is quite a large one.

Mr. Hicks is quite an enthusiast on the subject of exploring North China and we had long talks about things. He is very well posted on coniferae and hardy shrubs and he has quite a number of rare shrubs on his place. Sunday night I stayed in the Hicks' residence for they are very nice and hospitable and Monday morning

we went to Flushing to see some fine specimens of large trees. I took a few pictures of some of them. There is a Pseudo-larix Kaempferi which is believed to be one of the largest in existence and on the private places around one finds remarkable fine specimens of Weeping hemlock, European beech, Japanese maple, etc.

In the afternoon we went to the Bronx Botanical Garden and had a conference with Dr. Britton. He showed us some good books on the Chinese flora and showed us herbarium specimens of plants which Dr. Henry collected. They have a fine herbarium, indeed, and Dr. Britton is expert in locating the things he wants. He asked me where my Peking address would be. I said I suppose it will be care of the American Ambassador but I told him I would let him know before I sailed. Mr. Britton said that if we send him some things from China he would like to have herbarium specimens to accompany them, the same thing which Prof. Sargent said yesterday.

Well, in the evening Mr. Hicks left for home and I went around New York a little and left with the midnight train for Boston.

Yesterday I spent the whole day in the Arboretum. Mr. Jackson Dawson took me all over and yet we didn't see half as yet. What an immense treasure there is stored in this garden for plant breeders and how little known the place is. Mr. Dawson showed me quite a good many plants of which there is only one specimen known to be in cultivation. Do you know, Mr. Fairchild, that I ought to work on this place a whole year before I would know all the plants but this is out of the question, so I think it is better that I leave Boston Friday afternoon and arrive in Washington Saturday

morning. That gives me nearly four days here and that is sufficient to get a general idea about what has and what has not been introduced. I really would like to be here in spring to see the different shrubs in flower and in fall again to see them fruit but as I said, that is impossible this time.

On the next page I give a few suggestions which the different men I met advised me to do.

With best regards,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Mr. Hicks suggests cooperation with the Canadian Department of Agriculture to obtain hardy plants for our Northern states.

Mr. Hicks suggests to find out whether Andrew Carnegie could aid some in sending an expedition.

Mr. Hicks and I came to the conclusion that it might be well to find some good nurserymen on the North Pacific Coast who could grow some of the plants that need such a climate.

Prof. Sargent suggests to take a copy of Brettsneider's book with me.

Prof. Sargent suggests to take 1000 sheets of herbarium paper with me as such material is not easy to obtain in China.

Mr. Jackson Dawson suggests to take a quantity of good, well-dried sphagnum with me as sphagnum is not to be had in China. He says Prof. Sargent always takes it along enclosed in a circular which Mr. D. gave me.

Mr. J. Dawson advises to take sufficient oil and parafin paper with me and thinks that dry earth is an almost better material for

Boston, Massachusetts,

July 15, 1905.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

If it is possible I would like to visit your place before leaving for China, but I am afraid I won't have any time for it.

I suppose you know it, don't you, that I have been appointed Agricultural Explorer to China and I am sent here to study shrubs and trees in the Arnold Arboretum for a few days. I am very happy now in the thought of going to give you people many new plants and fruits from China. I leave Seattle August 3d, for the Orient.

I was informed that Mrs. Dorsett was far from well. That is too bad. Is the air there not so good?

Well, with best of wishes and best regards to Mrs. Dorsett and the boys, I remain

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

packing seeds in than powdered charcoal.

Honolulu. Aug. 9, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

We reached this city yesterday late in the afternoon and today at 12 we leave again. I did not see Mr. Cram and Mr. Wilder but may see them this morning. Our voyage was very quiet. There are not many passengers aboard. It is a small vessel, you know.

With best regards,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Nagasaki. Aug. 27, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

By this time I'll try to give you a short account of what happened to me the last weeks.

We left San Francisco on time, August 9, and had an uneventful journey to Honolulu. In this place we stayed about sixteen hours and I took opportunity to visit the U. S. Agricultural Experiment Station where I presented my letter of introduction to Mr. J. G. Smith. Mr. Smith himself was too busy to show me around but Mr. Higgins, the Horticulturist, showed me the grounds and asked me to come back the next morning to see the Territorial Experiment Station.

This last one carries a much larger staff of workers than the U. S. Station. They also have a small Botanical Garden connected

with it. A greaty pity it isn't somewhat larger. To my sorrow I didn't get to see Mr. Wilder or Mr. Cran. The first one had left for an island trip and the last one was inspecting goods at the steamers.

I took leave again, decorated with leis (wreaths of flowers worn around the neck) and our steamer steamed out at noon. These islands look beautiful and I hope to see somewhat more of their possibilities when I come back by this route again.

When we were about 8 days out from Honolulu we encountered a pretty stiff wind which soon became a storm and there were very few of us who cared to look at the menu. It lasted for about three days and delayed us considerably for instead of arriving Sunday, August 20, at noon as was expected, we came to stop in the harbor of Yokohama Monday late in the afternoon.

The first thing I did was to take a jinricksha and go to the Yokohama nurseries. Mr. Susuki wasn't home and the foreman showed us (two fellow-passengers who were interested also in Horticulture went with me) over the place. We didn't get as much out of this man as we expected so as I wanted to see Mr. Susuki himself I went back again the next morning. This time I was luckier.

Mr. Susuki is a very intelligent, enthusiastic man, with a broad knowledge of plant life. We had talks about shipping, fumigation, etc. As a result of that talk with Mr. Susuki and with Mr. Unger of the Behrman Nursery Company I found out that for ordinary shipments it is absolutely unnecessary to ship by way of Yokohama.

Mr. Susuki suggested that if I thought it necessary to have the plants looked over in Yokohama, they would be very glad to do so when I send them a note mentioning ship and other details. Well, I think such a thing might occur once in awhile.

Mr. Suski said the Nippon Ysen Kaisha line was the best one for plant shipping purposes. He said they shipped all their own stuff by that route.

You had put a little note among my papers reading, "Meyer, get Miscanthus Condensatus fodder plant from Susuki." Well, I told Mr. Susuki to supply you with $10.00 worth of it. Mr. Susuki doesn't think the plant will do well in all places. He says it likes sea air and doesn't love too great extremes of heat and cold, so maybe it might be well to send most of the lot to Chico, though there is no sea air there, but it might perhaps grow just as well without it. I told Mr. Susuki I would write you about it and you would let him know where to ship it. (You know they are plants for Mr. Susuki says seed is as yet not to be obtained.)

You also wanted to know whether they grow any winter crops on their rice lands. Now Mr. Susuki says on the wet lands it is too cold in winter to grow anything but on the dry lands wheat and fodder are grown after the rice is cut. Of course, I am in the wrong season now to make any observations myself so I just mention Mr. Susuki's words.

The bale of Shagnum was sent aboard and the bill sent to the Department. I wanted to pay it but as it probably would be paid twice I let it go. It is only $1.75 anyway so I hope you'll settle this.

Litchee trees. Mr. Susuki showed me the collection of Litchees you had written him to take care of until they were strong enough to bear shipping. Well, these trees are not exactly as strong as they could be and I believe something like 40 out of the lot have died. Now, do you know, Mr. Fairchild, that in Chico it is too cold for Litchees and indeed, in the whole of California there are perhaps one or two spots where they might succeed and that is around Santa Barbara and perhaps in San Diego. So I would suggest to send the plants to Hawaii. When I was in Honolulu the Chinese fruit dealers paid 40 cents a pound for fresh Litchees and some lucky owners of big trees cleared $100.00 per tree. I almost wished myself I had a couple of such trees. Well, I told Mr. Susuki I would mention the matter to you and you would write him whether California or Hawaii would be the place to send them.

You might like perhaps to get 5 or 10 of the strongest to try in extreme southern Florida. I leave this over to you. Mr. Susuki has kept the plants during the whole winter in his green houses as the climate in Yokohama is too cold for Litchees.

A new Chestnut from Korea. Mr. Susuki showed me one little plant, the only one that germinated out of 5 nuts, sent to him by a friend in Korea. The plant looks more like a chestnut-oak than a real Chestnut. Mr. Susuki says that though the fruit isn't very large the taste is very sweet and it peels very easily. He says if we want some it would be possible to obtain them. Well, what do you think of ordering a quantity of these chestnuts?

An Everbearing Chestnut. Another chestnut was shown me which is said to produce 2 or 3 crops a year. It is called the new everbearing chestnut. Mr. Susuki has only a small quantity of young plants and doesn't know as yet what it is claimed to be. I saw the trees in fruit and bloom at the same time and they were certainly not older than 2 or 3 years. I think if they are not too expensive you might buy a few for trial.

Japanese Persimmons. They have a nice collection of young trees of all the varieties of Diospyros Kaki. Now, when I was in Chico Mr. Dorsett told me he was very anxious to obtain a collection of the Japanese persimmons and he has none as yet. Well, of course, I wouldn't advise you to buy a whole collection (unless it is very cheap) but I would suggest to find out which of the varieties are introduced already in America and which not. Then Mr. Dorsett might be able to procure scions from those grown in the States and the new ones could be introduced.

Did you ever taste the dry preserved Japanese persimmon? When I was Juror last year at the World's Fair we got some of these preserved persimmons to taste and they certainly were fine. They resemble figs very much but are far larger and taste somewhat different. Now, we may be able to build up a new industry in California or in the southern states and in my opinion the station at Chico is in a most excellent location to try things that have to be grown over a large territory as the climate there is a very happy average of nearly the whole of California and that of some of the southern states.

Myrica rubra. This is a little fruit which is eaten in

Japan and China and some people think it might be well to try it on a large scale in America. It is a half hardy evergreen shrub and is grown already on a few places in America. Mr. Susuki has a few different varieties of it. Shall we try it?

Mushrooms. Is the mushroom that grows in the evergreen oaks grown already in the states? Mr. Susuki told me he had shipped you some spawn. I suppose the host plant, Quercus cuspidator, is grown somewhere already, but if not, it would pay us to obtain a large quantity of acorns from it. Mr. Susuki thinks it is the best tall, evergreen hedge plant the whole of Japan has. Now we need in California windbreaks and hedges for orange groves which do not eat the ground out as much as the Eucalyptus does and I think the people might try to kill two birds with one stone, that is, to pick mushrooms from their hedges. I haven't seen yet how they grow those mushrooms commercially so I can't say much about it.

Tea. While in Honolulu Messrs. Smith and Higgins told me if I found some tea plants in China they would be pleased to get them. Well, at the Yokohama nurseries I saw the large leaved Chinese tea and the small leaved, but according to Mr. Susuki's opinion, much better flavored, Japanese tea. Now, I don't know whether this is in our line but it might be nice to have a few plants of each variety sent to the Hawaii Experiment Station.

I also saw Mr. F. M. Tegner, c/o Vivanki Bros. We had a talk about the reliability of the Yokohama Nursery Co. and the Behrman Nursery Co. He told me they are both perfectly reliable. Well, a man can't accept things until he has had some personal dealing with them.

I visited Mr. Unger of the Behrman Co. He received me very nicely and almost the first thing he mentioned was that he was very sorry that between you and Mr. Eckhard a little unpleasant relation existed, but he hoped that I would straighten matters out again. He referred me to Mr. Eckhard when I arrive in Shanghai. I looked over his nursery and saw that he grows a somewhat different class of plants than the Yokohama Nurseries. He showed me big patches of Japanese horse chestnuts, Gingkos, Platanus orientalis, all used in his trade with North China. He told me that on account of Mr. Eckhard's push and energy quite some shade trees were required in newly laid out parks and streets and he supplied a good deal of them.

I had a look over the fruits at the different fruit stalls but there is little worth introducing. There are some fine peaches but the plants originally were imported from the States and have acquired a different flavor on account of difference in soil and climate. The pears also are not conspicuous for their flavor. With grapes it is the same case. Take a few kinds which had a Concord flavor but were sourer and had a much heavier skin.

I am told that fruits and flowers imported from drier, sunnier regions, lose their flavor and scent in a few years in Japan. It is easy to understand this, for it is certainly a damp country. We have had rain now for every day and night and the air is loaded with moisture. Yesterday we went from Kobe to Kyoto and then from there something like 15 miles up country to get a boat and we shot the rapids in great style, but rain it did, something

fierce, the whole party had umbrellas and blankets to prevent from being soaked to quick, but I assure you we were very glad to get aboard again and take a dry suit of clothes on.

I expect to mail this letter tomorrow morning in Nagasaki. We are steaming now slowly through the famous Inland Sea. Every view is like a dream and most of the passengers are commenting upon the extremely lovely scenery. Well, with best regards to Mr. Pieters and other friends, I am

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China, Sept. 5, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

As you see, I am now in Shanghai. I arrived here on September 1st but owing to all kinds of accidents I haven't been able as yet to proceed to Peking.

You might remember from my letter from Nagasaki that I intended to depart from that city the next day after I arrived but that steamer didn't come in on time and when it came all berths were taken up so I had to wait until Wednesday afternoon, August 30, (I arrived Sunday morning, August 27) before I could go. And I was very glad too to get a place on that boat as the passenger traffic is unusually heavy in the summer between the hot seaports of China and the cool mountain resorts of Japan.

We encountered a little bit of a typhoon while crossing the China Sea, but it wasn't so very bad after what we experienced

in Shanghai in which city we arrived on September 1st. We had much difficulty in keeping our hats on when we landed, but the gale increased tremendously in the afternoon and during the night it became a terrible typhoon and the water rose in many streets a few feet high, hundreds of trees were rooted up and all the basements and cellars along the watercourses were flooded. The damage that has been done to stored merchandise is about $5,000,000. I am coming in, too, for a share, for the big box with stationery and the bale of shagnum were stored in the Hotel basement and, of course you may imagine the condition of the glued envelopes, starched shipping bags, writing paper, etc. I had a talk with the proprietor about redress for the damage but he said he was very sorry but these things were what were termed acts of God and that the Hotel could never assume responsibility in such cases. He added healingly, that some guests which arrived later than I did had lost hundreds and hundreds of dollars worth of fine silks, pictures, books, etc. Well, I see the Chinese servants are busily engaged every day in exposing all kinds of things to the action of the sun or the wind and some fine things there are among them so we simply have to accept these things.

I have been drying some things and some of the stationery I had to throw away. I suppose I can buy most of these things in Pekin or here.

I have been pretty busy here in visiting different people and having talks with them.

First I saw the Consul General, Mr. Rogers, but as this gentleman has been here only four or five weeks, he wasn't, of course,

very much acquainted with plant growers or shippers. Still, he looked different people up for me and offered his assistance whenever needed.

The next one I hunted up, for it took me a few hours to find him, was Mr. D. McGregor. We had quite a talk about shipping, ways of collecting (he is personally acquainted with Wilson, the Vetch collector) and he offered me free of charge to take care of any shipments I wanted to send him. As you know, he is a public official and has no commerical interest in nurseries so it will be very much safer for us to have him tend to our things. I told him that we were quite willing to let him have some of our American plants or seeds in exchange for his labors so I hope we may be able to send him a few things after we have had some dealings with one another. As a token of our good will I would be very pleased if you could manage to send him some of our bulletins like yours about new vegetables from Japan, and Mr. Oliver's "The Propagation of Easterlilies from Seed" which he liked very much to get and I leave it to you to put in a few more interesting pamphlets.

Mr. McGregor invited me the next day to his house for lunch and in the afternoon we visited some parks and cemeteries. The plant growth here in Shanghai is very rapid and the climate is about what it is in South Carolina. Magnolia grandiflora grows fine; as shade trees the Platanus orientalis are in great favor, also the Pterocarya stenoptera. Instead of the S. C. palmetto one finds in most gardens the Trachycarpus excelsa. The tallow tree, Stillingia or Sapium sebiferum does well; along the watercourses one

finds narrow and broad leaved willows but they are all planted for actual use for the Chinese are not a nation of tree lovers, that is, to love a tree for itself without concerning its profits.

Mr. McGregor and I visited Mr. Eckhard and then went back to my hotel where we three dined together. Mr. Eckhard invited us for lunch next day and I went to see his nursery for we didn't have time the evening before. He has quite a big place and grows all kinds of shade and ornamental trees. He supplies trees to private places and does do some decorating and bouquet work. We had a few words about plant shipping but he apparently doesn't go in much for that kind of work and he asked me a few questions which do not put him in the first rank as a man for our work. He thought, for instance, that if it isn't possible, when I collect something of importance, to let him have a part of it, as the Department of Agriculture intends to give the things to the trade anway and it would save time and trouble to reimport the things to China and Japan afterwards. Well, how a man can ask such questions is very queer, not to say stupid, but of course I politely answered that my orders were not to give away anything unless I had permission to do so. So I think I would rather not let him handle our things.

A few of the gentlemen I wanted to call on weren't home. Dr. Barchet, for instance, had gone back to the States on account of ill health. Mr. Jenner Hogg was in Wei Ha Wei and would not be back until the end of the month.

I saw Mr. Little, though, but he was very busy and during my hour's stay with him he had so many callers that I had perhaps only ten minutes' actual talk with him. He told me that near Kinking

on the Yang-tse River there are peaches growing wild, although they are very small, he said. In Peking, however, he saw peaches on the market as large as the crown of a man's hat and juicy, too. Fine walnuts grew in Shongton. I am going to write him a letter asking him to give me the exact places of some fruits for he has been in China 20 years and talks Chinese fluently.

About the fruits in the markets here, I will say that there is far more variety than in Japan. I saw 5 or 6 varieties of pears, as many of apples, 3 or 4 of Grapes and the new Japanese persimmons are just coming in, so are walnuts and Chinese dates (Zizyphus vulgaris). They also have those queer looking fingered lemons from the South. The watermelons are not large but they have them with yellow flesh and with red and white. I didn't dare to eat many of their frutis for they don't keep things, what we would call clean. They eat the roots of the Nelumbium raw. I'll buy some and taste them. It seems I am too late for peaches, at least I haven't come across a single one as yet.

Well, my work being over here, I wanted to leave for Tientsin last night but all tickets being sold out, I have to wait till Wednesday morning, September 6. I was amazed to find that a single ticket cost nearly 62 Mexican dollars and they advertise travel in China as being so cheap!!! The people love to lie, this whole world over.

Did you ever hear, Mr. Fairchild, how much Botanical exploration costs sometimes? Well, Mr. McGregor told me that Wilson spent about 25,000 Pounds sterling for his work. He had sometimes 50 coolies engaged in pulling his boat through the Yang-tse rapids not to mention the men that cared for the other things. The firm

Veitch paid for all this and of course they'll never get this money back out of the imported plants but as Mr. McGregor put it, it is the advertisement they care for. I certainly was surprised to hear that a private firm cared so much for a scientific exploration as to spend $125,000.

A few more days and I'll be in Pekin. I hope to find some interesting things there, though I am told one has to go long and far to find real good things.

If anything might occur which you think will be of use to me, please let me know.

With best regards to Mr. Pieters, Dr. Galloway, Dr. Smith and Mr. Oliver, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

On the Ocean between Chefoo & Tientsin.

September 10, 1905.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

As the time proceeds I am coming closer and closer to my place of destination and I suppose that I'll have reached Pekin by the middle of next week.

Just a few hours before I left Nagasaki I had the pleasure to meet your sister who then had just returned from the mountains. Rev. J. Stout, also from Dutch descent, introduced me to her , but as I had to hurry up, I couldn't talk as long with her as I would

have liked to. Your brother was still in the mountains so I didn't see him.

Well, I stayed about 5 days in Shanghai where I experienced my first typhoon. I suppose you have seen enough about it in the papers.

Yesterday I had a real pleasant experience. We stopped off at Chefoo and as Mr. Fairchild directed me to see Mrs. Nevius there I went up the Temple Hill where the house is. Mrs. Nevius is very old now so I couldn't see her myself but a Chinese lady who stayed with them and who is a graduate from New York (Dr. Yamei Kin is her name) was kind enough to take me all around. We first saw the old trees that were planted by Dr. Nevius and although they have badly gone to pieces still there are some nice ones yet among them. I ate some Concord grapes that were better flavored than any I ever ate in the States.

From this old garden we went to a much better kept place that also originally had been laid out by Dr. Nevius. I was amazed to find the fine grapes, apples and pears down there. As soon as we struck the town I was surprised to see the large, fine-colored apples offered for sale and to see black and white Muscatel grapes on the fruit stands, but not, I understand where those things came from. Their grape arbors were loaded with fruit. I am sorry to say, though, that a rot fungus had played serious havoc among them, so that most bunches were imperfect. They also had some fine Bartlet and Duchess pears. Miss Kin told me that all the fruit that is being grown around has been introduced by Dr. Nevius and the Chinese have

been grafting mostly from his plants. They are also spraying with copper sulphate and use also Paris green, quite enterprising isn't it?

After having explored this garden, we went to see a rich merchant who keeps a large fruit garden for profit. He had imported some trees from California and even Australia but complained that some trees didn't grow or were not what he thought they were. We had it about Chinese fruit and he said we needn't bother about Chinese fruits for they are all inferior to American or European fruits, but bye and bye he admitted that the Chinese walnuts were larger and better than the American ones and said that there were ten different kinds of persimmons in China, some of them were white meated. They also had a very nice white nut which he had never seen imported. This proved afterwards to be the Gingko biloba.

This climate here is certainly remarkable. They grow fine Muscatel, Tokay, Hamburger and Concrod grapes, also apricots, cherries, apples, pears, strawberries, wineberries and currants. Now, you see how strange this is; the first three grapes we grow in California but the Concords belong to the Atlantic slope. So with apricots; these we cannot grow commercially in the Atlantic or Central states; so either the climate here is a wonderful mixture of the two or they have some varieties that are really somewhat different from ours. When the apricots are leafless I'll buy and get some scions and ship them up for those trees really don't look the same as our California varieties. This same gentleman, Mr. Sing Tai is his name, said that the peach trees they had imported from California were failures. I was shown one tree and it was

heavily attacked by the gum disease. I told him to try to get trees from the Atlantic Coast as in all probability they will succeed much better. He said he would try to.

There is one thing here in Eastern China that strikes me very much and that is such a great resemblance in climate and products to our Eastern and Middle Western climate. In Chefoo they have a climate very similar to that of Washington, D. C. Crape myrtles do well. Zizyphus vulgares, Hibiscus syriacus, Paulonnia imperiales, Euconimus japonicus all look thrifty. As fodder and grain plants they have corn, sorghum, soy beans, Dolichos catjang and some other beans I do not know as yet. For vegetables they grow Chinese cabbage, eggplant, leek, cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet and common potatoes, turnips, Dolichos cultratus. It is interesting to see how some grow cucumbers crawling over stakes put in crosslike over one another. That prevents the fruits from rotting or being soiled.

They have a pomegranta here with very bright red fruit. If that should prove to be hardy in Washington it would be an interesting addition to your gardens. You may remember there is one bush growing at the Southern entrance of the Smithsonian Institution but that is a double flowered one and so I never saw any fruit on it.

During my visiting around I had to take many a cup of tea and fruits and cakes were served and in the evening I was invited for supper with the lady who rents the fruit farm from Mrs. Nevius and I had a regular Chinese meal. We had about 12 different dishes and some were very tasteful. I wasn't particularly handy with chop sticks so a small chinaware spoon and my knife were the articles I

stuck to. Late in the evening I drove home (I mean to the steamer) in a jinricksha and it was more luck than wisdom that I wasn't thrown out in the roads, for there are a few things in this country which are simply fierce. And these things are the state of the roads and the filth. I think that before long I'll have either to lose my sense of smell or to change it according to Chinese ideas of odor. It is sometimes staggering to see that utter disregard for the most rudimentary ideas of sanitation.

The Chinese have probably learned from sad experience how to live best under such conditions and as a result they boil all their water and drink it under the name of tea and eat nearly all their dishes pretty hot so as to exclude the possibility of taking dangerous bacteria in. They eat many fruits raw, however, but I suppose all the weak ones have died out long ago.

Well, wishing you All the best, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Tientsin, China,

September 20, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

It is again a couple of weeks since you last heard from me so I'll try to post you on a little of what happened to me in that time.

In the evening of September 6 I got on the coast steamer Taishin in Shanghai and on the 9th we arrive in Chefoo where we had

to lay over for one day. I utilized that time in exploring the markets where I was amazed to see the amount of fine grapes, apples and pears. Later on I went to see Mrs. Nevius whom you recommended to see in my letter and although Mrs. Nevius was too feeble to receive me I got all the information I wanted from Miss Dr. Yamei Kin, of which I have to give you her best regards.

Dr. Kin took me all over the Nevius plade and adjacent properties and afterwards to the place of a rich merchant, Mr. Sing Tai. They have a remarkable lot of good fruit here but there is one pity from our point of view, and that is, it is simply American fruit introduced by Dr. Nevius and from his trees further propagated by the Chinese. I wrote Mr. Pieters a little more about this so I had better not repeat.

Dr. Kin gave me a few interesting informations. She said that all the good chinese fruits have all come from the Western part of China and it is there that we will have to go to find original as well as improved forms. At the headwaters of the Yang-tse especially she says we'll find interesting things. Up there they have the Liang pears which weigh sometimes over one pound, also very sweet peaches and good walnuts.

She also says that we ought to introduce the Amory pomelo as it is better than anything we have in America and she claimed to have eaten all of our Florida or Californian varieties.

As for ornamental plants, Dr. Kin thinks we ought to get a number of the Chinese varieties of Olea fragrans. They have them here with orange-colored, lemon-colored and white flowers and she thinks that with a little protection they must be hardy in Washington.

Well, it was about 8 P.M. before we were through with our sightseeing and the Chinese lady who had rented half of the Nevius property invited Miss Kin and me for supper and we made a good time out of it. As a special favor I was shown the bed rooms with the brick bedsteads under which they have a fire in cold weather and after thanking one another for all things I drove to the steamer loaded with a basket of fruit and a number of mooncakes. The Chinese are really a good-natured race when one begins to learn them.

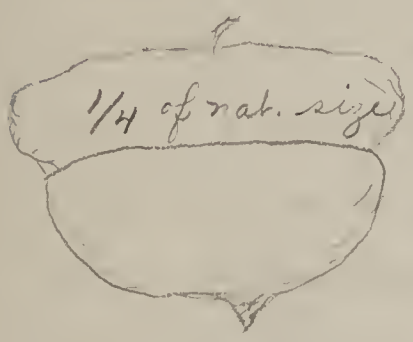
After another day and a half on the ocean we came to the Taku forts. It was very low water and our captain did not dare go any closer to the shore and he told us when the wind don't turn I may be obliged to lay here a couple of days so we decided to reach Tientsin by a quicker way. We went aboard a tug which brought us to the Taku village and then we took the train to Tientsin where we landed September 11 at 3:30 P.M.

I went to see the Consul, Mr. Ragsdale, where I obtained a few addresses. I saw also some shipping agencies. It cost only about $5.00 Mexican a ton to ship material from here to Shanghai.

The next day I went to a very prominent merchant, Mr. C. Y. Sun, who has large gardens outside the city and this gentleman showed me all around. On his place I made a nice discovery. The hardy Bamboo. He has quite a lot of it but unfortunately it is all planted out and as you know, bamboos don't stand long shipment without having been growing with confined roots. He promised me to put some in pots and give them to us next year and he will look out in the meantime to get some more. Well, yesterday I visited with

his valet quite a vew nurseries, but I think he has bought the whole, darned supply there was, for I only saw two little bits of plants. He paid himself 40 cents a shoot for it. That shows you how rare it is and part of his plants came from Pekin. So maybe in this last city I'll find some more. This kind of Bamboo doesn't seem to grow much higher than 20 or 30 feet but I am told that there are taller kinds existing yet which are also hardy; let us see, that is all I can say.

They have here and in Pekin a strange persimmon. As yet they come in green, but they tell me bye and bye red ones will come, for the present ones are pulled too green. The shape is like this



and they are perfectly seedless. I haven't been able as yet to find big trees of them for they seem to come from quite a distance. Mr. Sun has young trees and when they are leafless I will take some scions.

Then, there are very strange quinces here. They look like fine yellow pears and one kind looks like a small yellow apple but they are quinces and they have a fine flavor and are melting in one's mouth. Now among my notes there is one from Tertune saying that there is one highly flavored and melting pear coming in Pekin, first instance of a pear of this kind having been found in China." Well, I think he must mean this quince. I myself took them for Chinese pears, but Mr. Sun told me, no, these are Chinese quince-pears. In the hotels they are served for dessert, so that shows how good they are. The big trouble is now, where do they come from.

The one says from Pekin, another from Hung-tchan and most of them say"Tientsin have no got" and that is about all they know about it. One man told me they grow down along the big canal 3 or 4 miles from here but yesterday I walked 20 miles trying to discover the bushes on which they grow but apparently it comes from a far away region.

They have pretty good grapes here. They are not fine flavored but still they will do. I know now where these come from. They grow on the opposite bank of the canal about five miles from here. They train them on overhead bamboo trellises much the same way as we grow grapes in hothouses. They irrigate them pretty well, I suppose to make the berries swell for then they sell better, of course. Mr. Sun told me they keep their grapes in icehouses from one year to another so they need no forcing houses like we do in America and Europe.

In ornamental plants I haven't seen as yet very much which is important. They have a very pretty Vitis here which is used to cover walls or gates and I have never seen that one anywhere as yet but here. I collected a quantity of seeds from them and will also get cuttings this winter. Yesterday I discovered the minima variety of the Vitis but only one small plant in a private garden. I'll try too to get this.

In a few of the nurseries I saw ornamental cherries and plums which are probably new. Also a Ligustrum with laciniate leaves, an Euconimus I don't know, some strange looking roses and a few more little things which may be new. The trouble is they dwarf their plants to a certain extent to induce flowering and grow them in pretty big pots so the freight will be high and then those dwarfed plants do not always take kindly to a long voyage.

Last week I was three days in Pekin. The minister was exceedingly busy on account of Miss Roosevelt being in town with that whole party and the boycott seems to give our Legation considerable work. Still, I had a talk with Mr. Rockhill and Mr. Williams and am going to see them again tomorrow, I think.

I haven't been as well of late as I could have been. During my stay in Pekin where the stench in the outskirts is terrific and where the gray, alkaline dust makes one's eyes sore, I got a pretty good attack of Diarrhea with a slight fever. Also an inflamation of a tooth. Well, I think it is really better that those three came combined instead of each one separate. I took my medicine mixed up for fever and bowel trouble and had the tooth treated and now I am in good shape again. It is not very pleasant to be indisposed in this country; things are so hard to obtain and very dear also. I suppose I have to get acclimatized a little before I will feel myself again.

Next week I hope to go to the mountains in search of Persimmons, peaches and walnuts.

It is one of the hardest things here to get what one wants. The Chinese themselves do not know much about things which come from

a few miles distant. When one buys some fruits and he asks where they come from they generally say they don't know and sometimes they get in discussion with one another and then it proves that they had wrong ideas about the localities where the products grow. It seems that the wholesale dealers buy from the transporters and these transport people go by boat for miles and miles up or down the numerous canals and rivers and buy things from the growers. The wholesalers sell again to middlemen and these to retailers so it is no wonder nobody knows where things come from.

Then, of course, the Chinese have some kind of a distrust of all questioners. But that is among all people. Even in America where the people are more open-minded than anywhere else the fruit-sellers do not give one exact information for fear of losing trade, etc.

Next week I'll send some boxes with Chestnuts, walnuts and Chinese dates for trial.

With best regards to all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Pekin, China, October 4, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Your letter of August 23 and the enclosed photos were received by me a couple of days ago. Thanks for your kindness in sending these pictures, it does do a man good to see some home subjects again.

About these accounts, no I didn't know it was necessary to send them in every month. I thought that by being special temporary disbursing agent, these things had to be squared when the money was pretty near spent or when the time allowed had passed. Well, I have made up the whole account now until October 1. It will be way in November before you receive it. That is not pleasant, such a fearful time it takes for things to reach one another.

Yes, I suppose there are a few things in these accounts which may be hard to get back. Well, if it isn't too much I am willing to lose some for the sake of the good work and for the new things I see and the knowledge I gain. On a trip like this one always makes so many little expenses which one hardly can or will enter into an account. Take, for instance, tips in the hotels and in the dining cars. As you also are aware of the fact, when one doesn't put his hand in his pocket once in awhile the rascals that serve upon one acquire that funny habit of not noticing whether a man has been served already or not and especially when one is in a hurry that proves sometimes a serious inconvenience to one.

I didn't put in my side trip to Chico, that is, railroad fare and sleeper. The hotel bill I entered because I would have had to eat and sleep in San Francisco anyway. The side trips in the coast cities of Japan are also left out, because I really didn't find much of importance for our work. I entered one item of fees for room boy and waiters in Shanghai just to see what they will do about it. On steamers they allow us such things as fees to steward, etc., isn't that so?

The accounts are made out in U. S. money. There is too much trouble in monkeying with Chinese money. The tael is the official money but I haven't seen one as yet. But they use three kinds of dollars, Mexican, Hongkong and Chinese ones. They differ a trifle too in value. It will take a smarter head than mine to find out about these Chinese money matters. For instance, one may exchange a Mexican dollar and get ten ten-cent pieces for it. Now when one exchanges a ten-cent piece one gets only seven or eight cents for it. Exchange such a cent and one receives but five cash for it while one ought to get seven cash because the Mexican dollar is considered in Pekin to be worth about 700 cash. In other cities nearer or closer to the places of copper production those cash and cents have again different values. I have reckoned the Mexican dollar to be fifty cents American. It is sometimes more, sometimes less.

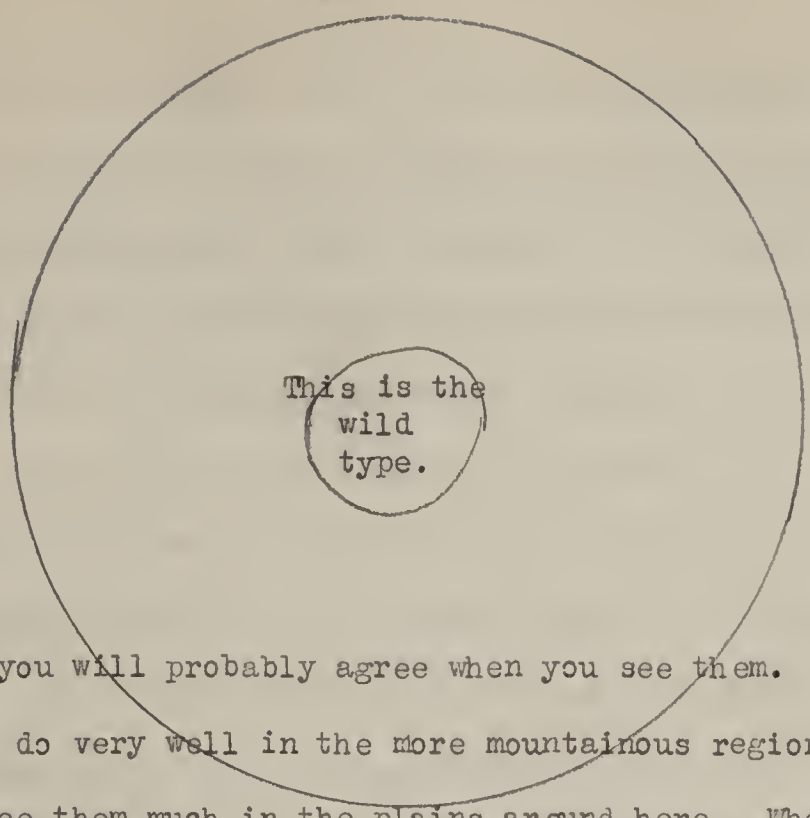
When one is in the States one often hears the remark how cheap it is to live in China but that is not so. For Americans or Europeans life is most decidedly expensive. When one could live entirely in Chinese fashion, yes, then I think it is pretty cheap but certainly not when one lives in a European hotel and doesn't know the exact prices of things.

The Chinese idea about honesty is very strange. They rarely ask one the right price. The more they swindle a man the more they are pleased and especially so with foreigners. I find out every time that they sell much cheaper to their own race than to us.

One thing which is very annoying in our work is that they lie so much. Now for instance, one buys some fruits and asks where they come from. Well, now when they do not know it, instead of simply saying, "No, I don't know," O, no, they just name a place where they suppose the stuff comes from and one goes to such a place and, of course, there is nothing of the kind.

Last week I had a case of this kind. I had bought some very big peaches, some quince-pears and some apples. I also was told that an almond grew in the Northern Mountains. Well, I asked around and found a guide who was born in these mountains and he assured me all these things grew plenty fully up there. So we took cart and mules, donkeys, driver, coolie, the guide and myself and bought supplies, etc. Well, the result was that almonds didn't exist at all there, neither those big late peaches, neither quince-pears or that special kind of apple, but there were little orchards of apricots, early peaches, medium pears and walnuts and last but not least very large seedless persimmons. Some of these fruits were four inches in diameter. As those trees have to be propagated from scions they graft them upon a very small fruited persimmon which has 5 or 6 seeds in it. They graft these seedless ones on any height on the seedling. Some are done at the base, others 5 or 6 feet high and on some they have let the seedling grow until it is 8 or 10 years old and have grafted 10 or more scions on the branches.

I just give here the outlines in lead pencil of the big one and of the type. As soon as the leaves are off, I'll go back to these trees and will try to send you 1000 scions. I estimate the value of this fruit at 50,000 dollars for the U. S. This seems



much but you will probably agree when you see them. I think the tree will do very well in the more mountainous regions because one doesn't see them much in the plains around here. When the seedling fruits are ripe I'll procure a good lot of them for stock but I think that the common native persimmon will make a good stock for it, too. Perhaps you might order some stock already so that we don't come too late.

The climate around here is not what the Atlantic Coast climate is. It is Utah climate and even scenery. A dry cold winter, a warm summer with moderate rains, irrigated crops, a very dry air, dust storms every other day almost, a transparency in the atmosphere which allows one to see for miles and miles away and which gives the mountains in the distance that sharp blue tint which also is so characteristic of Utah. This is the way it is here.

Yesterday and the day before I was with Mr. and Mrs. Williams, the Chinese secretary of the U. S. Legation in the mountains. We found a number of interesting things there. For instance, the Pistacia sinensis which grows to be a tree 60 or more feet high and with a trunk 5 or 6 feet through but the fruit is very small and has

nothing in it for food. It will become a fine shade tree in these regions of the U. S. where the winter is not too severe for where it grows the pomegranate lives outdoors in a sheltered spot. You see these mountains have nooks and valleys just like Southern California and we all remarked every time upon that similarity.

There are little temples and monasteries in the up valleys and these places are the only spots where the original growth is left as nature planted it; all around where the temples are not every bit of tree growth has been removed during the long years of human occupation. They also have some trees planted in the court-yards of these places of worship and I saw a Catalpa Bungei or C. Bungeana which was about 100 feet high and had a trunk of 4 feet through. Those catalpas are beautiful when in bloom;as yet they are very rare in the States so I will get some cuttings or grafts.

We saw also bamboos in one temple which grew between 40 and 50 feet high, very gracefully. And there were a few more trees which may be of use to the U. S. For instance, a horse chestnut. Unluckily, all the seeds had gone already. They have those curious white bark, red pines which for all the world look like being white-washed. They also shed their bark like the sycamores--very queer.

There is one thing here in China one has to cultivate and that is patience. Things go very slow here and one who is in a hurry wears himself out and accomplishes nothing. One makes dates to see them postponed. One gets promises to see them broken. One is assured of certain things only to find out they are fakes, etc. etc.

In the case of the almonds, now, I find out that the Chinese have no genuine almond but they cultivate a sweet kerneled apricot only for its seeds. I got 14 pounds of that seed and will soon send it to you. They taste fine but they are small. One thing bothers me. The camera which I sent up to Shanghai hasn't come back yet. If I don't get an answer soon I will get me another in Tientsin. The leaves are all green yet so I have a little time but still by the end of this month things will begin to look different.

During this week I hope to go to the Northwestern mountains. Fine grapes come from there. It must be very cold there in winter so it may prove that we get something good from there. It is not exactly a picnic to travel in China. This are in an awful crude state. When I went last week to the northern hills where those persimmons grow (it is between Tschang Ping Tsu and Yenking) I sat the last day 12 hours on donkey back and was pretty well done up when I came home after coming from these steep, rocky slopes where the cold wind and the rarified atmosphere made one shiver in the early morning; then through that hot, dusty plain in which Pekin is situated and then to finish the whole thing a ride of over one hour through this immensely dirty, stinking city before we reached the hotel.

One has to take his bedding and provisions with him and when I had supper in a small place in the mountains the whole village came out to look at the foreign devil and every bite I took was commented upon. They felt my boots and pants and made remarks about color of eyes, hair, everything. I think I must have been a

rare bird in these regions. An electric flashlight proved to be a great attraction. Time after time they requested me to blow the candle out (we had to bring our own candles, too) and display the flashlight. A picture of the World's Fair at St. Louis was another thing they came in ecstacies over. One funny thing I had--one man wanted to know what I had in a small bottle. Well, it was pepper and not knowing the Chinese word I made the movement of taking a little to my nose and sneezing and to my amazement the whole crowd wanted some of it, put it in their hands and snuffed it up through their nostrils. Well, the result is to imagine. They cried and wept and coughed and shouted and I couldn't keep myself straight from laughing. Some minutes later when my guide came in with a plate of soup, I took some of that pepper and then they found out what it was. All those that hadn't partaken just roared at those that had been so silly. Then I found out they had supposed the stuff to be a foreign snuff.

Just now I am learning the Chinese names of trees and fruits. Mr. Williams was so kind as to loan me his copy of Brett Schneider and there is quite some information in these books.

There is also a Methodist missionary here, Mr. T. T. Headland, who being a fluent Chinese talker, assisted me very much in finding out where fruits came from by asking the dealers on the main fruit market.

Well, I'll finish this time. With best regards to Dr. Galloway, Mr. Pieters, Dr. Smith, Mr. Oliver and others, I am

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Chang-li, China,

October 14, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

These last days I am exploring this neighborhood. This place is about 200 miles East of Pekin on the railroad from Tientsin to Shan Hai Kwan. I had heard from a few people that there existed a papershell walnut near Shan Hai Kwan. Mr. Williams of the U. S. Legation told me it grew in Chang-li and from some Chinese I heard it grew close to this last town but it was very rare even there for it never appeared in other markets.

Well, I was able to buy a few pounds of nuts and the day before yesterday we went out with a Chinese cart and close by to a little village named Go-po we found the orchards. It is about 20 miles N. E. from Chang-li. I expected to find a group of papershell trees, but, Oh, no, they are scattered between hardshell trees. You see, they do not graft their trees. They are all seedlings and all of different ages so the whole thing is mixed up. The nuts were harvested 5 or 6 weeks ago so that I couldn't see which tree was papershell and which not so I had to depend upon the Chinese. Now this part of the country has not been visited by a white man before, according to my guide, and the people were more or less scared by my appearance and the idea foreign devil must have come in for a good share of that scare.

They were very loath in pointing out the trees and I suspect there are some very fine trees among them which they didn't want to show me. My guide told me that they thought I was going to

harm the trees. Well, if I am here next year I will have to come back earlier. I am really too late for most things. The Chinese climate seems to hasten the ripening of fruits. I think it is the very long dry spells which cause that. And another thing, the Chinese pick their fruits long before they are actually ripe and transport them on man's donkey's, horse's and camel's backs to the larger or smaller towns and as these journeys often occupy many days they couldn't do this if the fruits were not very hard.

Now, next year it would be a good thing to be here in June for cherries and apricots and in July and August for plums, peaches, nectarines, etc.

I found a fine grape district about 5 miles west from here. Large branches, good flavor, purplish green color. The plants seem to be heavy bearers. I took some photos of them and hope they'll turn out all right. These grapes are just coming in now (half of October) so I hope the season will be long enough for them in America.

Yesterday there was a big market held here and one man has fine green grapes, something like the white Muscatel. I asked where they came from and he said he is the only man who got them and he lives about 15 or 20 miles from here. He was coming this morning to take us out to his place but as yet he hasn't shown up. It rains hard so the roads are probably impassable.

I have some more discoveries to mention. In the mountains yesterday I found in an old garden another seedless persimmon. This time a small one, more of the Diospyros Kaki type. The tree is not a very heavy bearer, but is quite ornamental. This lead pencil circle is the outline of the fruit. The small wild persimmon grows here in

abundance and if this tree is hardy, it will prove to be a very welcome addition to the home fruit garden, especially for children. The fruits are about the size of medium grape berries and have a fine flavor, and the tree being low, round-headed is quite ornamental with rather large shining green leaves and simply loaded with yellow fruit which turn black when quite ripe. That is the reason the Chinese call them Gee-tsao or black dates. They sell them in the markets once in awhile but they don't bear transport, those ripe things.

There is a small grove of the large-fruited Crataegus pinnatifida close to the North Wall of Chang-li. This tree is so nice that I am surprised it isn't cultivated yet in the U. S.

These two sketches give an idea what a variation one finds in the fruits of these trees. I think there are larger ones yet. Those big kinds are collected and sold in the markets and Mrs. Williams said they made a delicious preserve.

Fine, white, long-headed cabbages. They grow around here a very fine cabbage. I sometimes think it is no cabbage. It looks more like a giant long-headed lettuce or like that beetroot which leaves are much eaten in Europe. I got a small quantity of a superior strain. I can't get any more down here, it seems, so you must be contented for the present with it.

Beautiful red turnips. These things look for all the world like giant round radishes. They are very solid and not strong. They vary in size and the diameters range from 3 to 7 inches, those of 5

being the ones mostly seen. One can slice one and eat it with some salt on one's bread in the morning and one big one is enough for a whole family. The color is fresh red outside and I think the thing will make a big hit at an agricultural show. The Chinese grow them in rows one foot apart in each direction and they seem to like a gravelly or sandy loam better than very heavy soil. I got only a small quantity of seeds, no more being available.

Reddish blue carrots or when scraped beet red colored. These carrots are very sweet and are well worth trying. As yet I haven't been able to procure seeds from them but I will get it. All I need is time for things in China certainly don't go in a hurry.

Last week I sent you a box with seeds. I hadn't time to write a letter and enclose duplicate notes in it but when I am back in Pekin I'll send you that the first thing. I hope they will arrive in good shape. Your letter with label enclosed I received. Yes, the labels I took with me and were submerged in the typhoon in Shanghai are in the same fix. They are no good at all. I think galvanized copper would be much better, but lead is of course better yet as acids or alkali utterly fail to attack it.

About the Sagittaria, I haven't seen it as yet around this part of the country but I am on the lookout.

I got a few samples of beans which I do not recall having seen anywhere before. Around here one sees very little in fibre plants. I bought some samples of fibre but the plants are not cultivated here. I will find the districts though, bye and bye. After a few days I am going back to Pekin again for I can't go farther north along the coast as the Japanese occupy the whole country as

yet and do not allow anybody to enter. We are only a short distance here from Mandshuria.

Please weigh the mail carefully as I have to pay charge on them every time. Your personal letter had only a 2 cent stamp so I had to pay 15 cents. Also for the letter with pictures 20 cents. and for the label 15 cents. The postal authorities in foreign countries are not so liberal as in the U. S.

Well, with best regards to all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Chang-li, China,

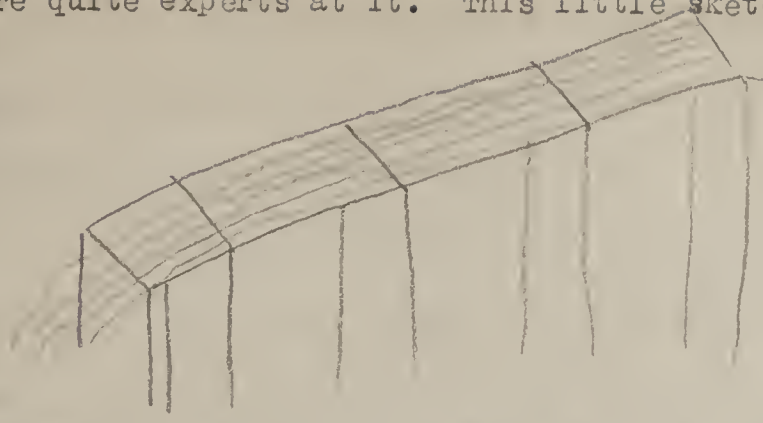
October 15, 1905.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

I am sitting again in the Chinese inn after having been out for an hour or six to hunt up the fine white grape which I saw on the market.

Well, I found it. It is a beautiful table grape. It is a Muscatel but the berries are longer and I should say heavier than of the ordinary muscat grape. It is not a free skin. I was able to get a small quantity of cuttings from it and also from two other grapes, free skins, one dark purple and the other light, good grapes too. That white grape sells here for 50 Mexican cents p. Kattie (1½ pounds) while the purple ones fetch only 15 cents. I had to buy 12 Katties before they were willing to give me a bundle of cuttings of each kind. Well, I think they are worth it. The people grow their grapes on trellises and prune on one eye. They

are quite experts at it. This little sketch may perhaps assist me



in making this particular way clear. They do not train their vines virst vertically and then horizontally. No, they let the slope start at the bottom and let the stems creep up like in a hot house.

I took a picture of the white grapes but at first nobody wanted to stay near it, but at last one man with more courage than the others came forward. I think if he gets sick or anything happens to him I'll no doubt get the blame for it. They admired the camera very much but somehow or another there was some fear for it but a pair of pruning shears were the object of almost veneration. They howled with delight when I clipped a heavy branch clean through. Old men came forward to examine that wonderful instrument. Strange, isn't it, that all these things are unknown here. I believe a smart tradesman with a slight knowledge of Chinese could make quite some money by selling a strong, cheap brand of pruning shears and pruning knives.

This evening I took a bath in a Chinese bathhouse. It was a strange adventure. All undress in a big room with broad benches along the sides on which one sits and throws his clothes. Then one is handed a dishrag and enters a small tightly closed room with a square pool of very hot water in the center. Here from 10 to 20

people all wash and splash together. The water is only 3 feet deep so there are no dangers connected with it except possible burning for the water is quite hot.

When one comes out one gets a little basin with cold water to throw over himself. When I came out the whole big room was full of spectators who came to see the foreigner from across the water. I heard I had the honor of being the first white man who had taken a bath here. Well, I had to wipe myself dry and dress in great show just to let them see how we do. Happily, no buttons came off or nothing tore, so I hope I left a good impression. Those Chinese are really like children in many ways.

One day passed.

This morning the man came who sold me the grape cuttings and he wanted more money for he said he being the only oneup till now who had this particular brand of white grapes wouldn't be in it no more for everybody would have them now. Well, we pacified him by saying we wouldn't give any of the cuttings to Chinamen and ship them right away across the sea. We also bought two baskets from him for 20 cents and this last item especially seemed to be the best medicine in his case; funny, really, isn't it? I often wish you could be with me here. We could laugh many a time. Now, I am all alone,and sorrow and pleasure, nobody shares it with me.

Against the mud wall in my room I put a picture of a 20 story skyscraper of Chicago. This serves two purposes: 1st. to impress the natives with an awe for the U. S. and 2nd, to keep in my own thoughts green the memory of the best country on earth (in my own opinion, of course). It may seem strange to you that a

skyscraper is preferred but you see, when we Europeans first come over, your enormous buildings are the objects we can't comprehend. A race that can do such things must be way ahead of the slower races of Europe.

I was out in the mountains today with my coolie. We bought some big fruits of Crataegus pinnatifida and I took some photos of the grove. It is a very ornamental tree, keeps its leaves till late in fall and is loaded with scarlet fruits. It is a rather slow grower though, but still I hope to see two fine trees of it in America before I go to sleep forever

The persimmon grows wild here in the mountains. It is a pretty tree and a most heavy bearer. The fruits are small but they taste well. We have been collecting a lot of them today and I ate a goodly supply. They graft on these wild trees a medium sized seedless persimmon but the very large ones which are sold in Pekin seem to be totally unknown down here.

China needs an intelligent government to make this country one of the finest countries on the face of the globe. They have the land, the people and the climate doesn't seem to be very adverse to successful agriculture so what do they need more? They have also plenty of metals and coal so bye and bye she will become a very great competitor for America in production of iron and copper. Just now they use very little metals in their buildings or in implements. Their water buckets are watertight woven willows or wood, pitchforks consist of one entire piece of forked wood. Grain shovels are woven willows again. Their plows have only a steel point, otherwise wood again. Their big rakes with which they harrow the land after the

grains are sown are made from wood and rattan. Oil bottles are either baked chinaware or bamboo joints. Money drawers in the country are 6 feet long bamboo sticks in which the joints are pierced through. So no thief attempts to run away with such a noisy, clumsy thing. In their houses they use remarkable little iron of even wood. The poor Chinese make a wall out of Sorghum stems plastered with a mixture of mud and straw. In 2 or 3 days a poor man's house is finished for the floor, walls and roof are all mud. The windows are paper pasted on a neat lath frame, the door is made from old boxes and the thing is ready.

The better class of Chinese have brick and even partly stone buildings with quite some fancy woodwork in it but yet as a whole, even wood in these better class houses is not a plentiful article.

For that reason North China is a poor country for a dendrologist. One can travel for miles and miles without seeing a grove of trees and then again in some parts here one meets many trees but all of the same type. Willows and poplars seem to be mostly in favor around here, while in Pekin the Sophora japonica and Ailanthus glandulosa are mostly seen.

The original growth in the mountains is pretty well extemminated and it is only around the Budhist monasteries that one finds things which are really rare or beautiful.

Shan Hai Kwan. Oct. 18, 1905.

I am again a day or two down here. A dry growing rice was said to be growing here and as we are here only a few hours away from South Manchuria I thought it was well worth looking up.

Well, as yet I have been able only to get a small bag full. You haven't got any idea, Mr. Pieters, how difficult it is here to get things. There are no shops in North China where seeds are sold for the purpose of planting. Each farmer grows his own seeds or his neighbors grow them for him so one has to go from hamlet to hamlet to find out whether they have any seed to spare or not. Now, in this dry rice, for instance, it is not a widely grown crop anyway and all the rice they do not need for next year's crop they hull and sell to the merchants in town, so they have little or nothing left to sell. In cabbages, and radishes it is all the same.

This morning my guide and I went around--my coolie went in a different direction--and one more man went also. I got some new kinds of beans and some new varieties of radishes and cabbages. Also a large buckwheat and a small bag of broad beans but from the red carrot I couldn't get a seed as yet.

One man sold a rather large peen-to peach here. I bought some but he didn't want to tell us where it grows. He is the only one who has them and he is apparently afraid others will get them, too. Those peaches sell here 4 for 10 cents Mexican. The people in America and Europe often think China is such a cheap country to live in, but I can most decidedly say <u>it is not</u>. Common things are not expensive here but good things are in comparison dearer than they are at home. Now in this time especially things are very high here because this country is so near the seat of the Russo-Japan War. There is a large garrison of Japanese soldiers stationed here and the English have a large number of Indian soldiers lying here too and they all have to rely upon the local produce.

My guide tells me that he and my coolie have to pay 1.20 Mexican each per day here for board and lodging. If that is the truth the coolie loses much money for he gets only $10.00 Mexican per month. I pay the guide $40.00 Mexican per month. That is not too much for he is quite an intelligent fellow; true, he talks only Pidgin English but he takes an interest in my work and has even begun to make a private herbarium so as to show off to his wife and his mother as he told me. He doesn't skin me as a few others I employed tried to do, although he could do it rather easily for we foreigners do not easily get acquainted with the right price of an article. Of course, I think he gets his little rake-off on some things but that is a matter of course here in China. A very honest houseboy(as we call them here) gets only 10% of all things he purchases for his master, but a very foxy one may even make it 50%. Mrs. Williams, the wife of the Chinese Secretary of the U. S. Legation in Pekin, told me herself that she thinks her houseboy gets about 30% but what can one do, she added; the one is just as bad as the other.

Whether my servants want to stay long with me, I don't know as yet, but I hardly think so. You see, the Chinese are local products and to be away from their friends and relatives is a thing they like very little. It is only when there is much money in it or a very easy time that they go away but otherwise, they would rather stay home.

Now, my work is not exactly very easy. Very much walking has to be done to get a few things and the Chinese as a whole are like the native born Americans, i.e., walking is not exactly relished

by them. I outwalk my men every time. My guide says I have iron legs. A few days ago I had to leave my coolie behind at 1200 feet or so while I went 1000 feet higher. When I can, I let them ride in a cart until the tracks (for the name road is too noble) get too rough or the incline too steep and then they have to use their feet also.

In this city I stop at a European hotel for to live for a long time in a Chinese inn is a thing I haven't got used to yet. The last time I couldn't get a good mattress in Tientsin so I slept on the brick bedstead with only a thin blanket underneath me, but I would rather sleep on the bare soil than that way. I stayed in that 6 nights and I cleaned my room pretty nearly out of bed and other bugs but you may imagine how little I really slept at night.

My guide himself, who is pretty well seasoned, said that this inn was only three years old but when ten years old no man could sleep there, and mind you, this was the best inn in town. How the others are I had better not think. The last night just before going to bed???? I called my guide's attention to a very large centipede on the wall. His answer was, "Oh, tis no bad, no bite. Other one got vely bad." Then it proved that he had just killed with his shoe a big scorpion in his room and as for doors, we have a curtain and for air circulation, different holes served. The communication from one so-called room to the other is very easy. Well, one is only sick for three days when they bite one; that is, when one's blood isn't bad; otherise, it may be a week or ten days and in young children even death results. So, with these pleasant thoughts and with the electric flashlight beside me so as to look

over the situation if something happened, I went to sleep. I haven't been bitten as yet and as it is turning much colder in the last days I think the insects will clear out.

Yesterday we went out the only spot in the neighborhood where some trees grow wild yet. It is in the mountains over which the big wall climbs where the Budhist monks have preserved that bit of tree growth. One finds here two different kinds of oaks, one kind of celtis and some of these are real big, some ash trees which become reddish brown in fall (something unusual in ashes) clumps of pine trees and last but not least, the apricot grows wild here. There were no fruits to be found so I can't say much about size. The native people say they are very small.

I collected some seeds of a small Nanthoxylan, also of a small rhamnus which may become bye and bye an ornamental little shrub in the States. The mountains are tremendously rugged and wild looking. I took a picture of a gorge which rivals those of Colorado and Utah. When China gets better accommodations for travellers, I think these mountains will be very much visited in the future. They are very bare but still they are inspiring to the utmost.

These pencil lines show the circumference and the thickness of the peen-to peach sold here. I got only a few seeds, but still they may be worth sowing. They may give something new.

Well, I see this letter got a little bigger than I intended. I hope you find something of interest in it.

With best regards to Mrs. Pieters and other friends, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. I haven't as yet sent any communication to a horticultural or other paper. Don't you think it is better if the Department itself would do it? I am not sure what kind of things they like published and what not. If you find anything of interest in my letters, I allow anything to be published, but don't care myself much that my name is mentioned. One sometimes would have to disappoint the people when things don't turn out as one thought they would, and then it is better not to be known to the general public as the finder of rubbish.

F.N.M.

Hsuen Hwa Fu, China.

October 30, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

As you see, I am now in Mongolia. It is a very bad country here, extremely dry and cold, but a fine white grape is said to grow here and that is the reason I decided to go.

They bury their grapevines in the ground in winter so I am rather in a hurry to get the thing for the winter has started here in all severity. The ice on ponds along the roads is strong enough already to hold a man.

Life is most decidedly dreary in these regions. There are no trees to be seen for miles and miles around except around some settlements of people and the soil is very sterile, being gravel and sand for the most part.

Yesterday we were caught in a genuine Mongolian sand storm and although I am pretty hardy, I would rather never be in such a thing again. An icy wind blew at such a velocity that we were in danger of being blown down the precipices at any time and the air was full of a mixture of dust, sand and small gravel.

After four hours' battle with it we were so utterly played out that we were glad to find an inn in which to rest. The mules, too, couldn't pull the carts any more; for everything got clogged up with sand. If it had been a level raod, things wouldn't have been so bad, but it was nothing but a narrow mountain trail for most of the time with the river 500 feet below on one side and high rocks on the other and everytime one had to wait on crosspoint to let the caravans of camels and donkeys pass which were loaded with blocks of soda, brick, tea, hides, etc. I do not think the temperature was much lower than 20 or 25 above, but on account of the wind it felt like 80 much below zero.

Don't let people think that agricultural or any exploration is a picnic in these regions. A thing found here is acquired at not a little sacrifice. I speak here in bitter earnest and don't take one word of it back.

We have our amusing incidents also. A few days ago we had to stop for the night in a small town along the road. Well, we entered the inn and looked over the rooms, but to my delight and disgust at the same time, I saw some inscriptions which made me inquire whether there was not another place to sleep but this inn was the only one and as we were too tired to go 8 or 10 miles farther we had to stay here.

Well, now, you will be curious to know what these inscriptions were. 1st, of course, I was glad to see inscriptions in languages which I understood but the nature of them were not very comforting. A Frenchman had written down: "Hotel of 1000 bedbugs." While an Englishman had written "Traveller, do not stop here. You'll be eaten up by bugs." I inspected the holes in the walls and really they were omnipresent, I mean the insects in question, but we fooled them just the same, for instead of going to sleep on the brickbedstead and being an easy prey, we put three Chinese tables together in the middle of the room and I slept on these very frail pieces of furniture and had only one attack to my knowledge.

When I told the guide the meaning of the foreign inscriptions and he foolishly enough communicated them to the landlord, the latter got very sore. He had taken them for recommendations and had taken a pride in them. I suppose he scratched them out as soon as I left. He first denied up and down that there were any bugs on his premises but being shown some specimens he quieted down and said it was too cold now for them to bite but the guide and coolie showed by visible signs the next morning that apparently a great number had not entered their winter sleep as yet.

Oh, yes, these are the little amusements one gets out here.

Tientsin. November 24, 1905.

I didn't finish my Mongolian letter for my spirits ran low on that trip and when laying on the cold bricks at night I had little inclination to give you descriptions of what ought to be but what was not.

Still, I think it is better to give a short account of my experiences. As you have seen already in a recent letter, I got the fine white grape which was reported to come from the neighborhood of Hsuen Hwa Fu. The people were just putting the finishing touches to the burying of their grape vines but I got quite some cuttings yet. One missionary told me they also have a long purple grape but it is very rare. He didn't know exactly where it grew so as it was too late now to find out I may appear again some day in these regions.

My whole trip into Mongolia wasn't marked exactly by favorable climatic conditions. While returning to Pekin we got another dust storm. This time from behind, however, and as it was also not so cold as the first one we pulled through in much better shape. For most of the inns along the road I have nothing but contempt. I only will give you a few plain facts so you may see that I don't grumble at imaginary evils. For instance, if there was a fire in the room the bugs were simply omnipresent and if there was no fire, as was generally the case, one shivered from cold, for the wind blew at a high rate through the different holes in the paper windows. On one place we had to put props of straw in these holes for it got a little too windy inside.

If one attempts to make a fire in many of these rooms, one has to stay outside on account of the smoke which comes out in greater volumes into the room than out of the chimney. Sometimes one finds a kind of a brick stove in front of the bedstead and in such a stove they burn a mixture of half coal dust and half earth mixed together with wine, and such a stove is rather satisfactory.

If one keeps the door half open so as to let the fumes escape, for these stoves have no cover on the top, then one can make himself fairly comfortable. One thing is very bad sometimes and that is this. You must know that chamberpots are unknown in these inns and as the nights get sometimes too cold to go outside, the Chinese urinate often right on the mud floors and you may understand that the scent is sometimes far from wholesome in some of these rooms. Perhaps you may not like to read such plain facts, but the truth has to come out and the reading of it is not one-tenth part of being into it.

I sometimes got angry at these conditions and said in a scornful way to the guide, "Chinese! Chinese! haven't you people learned as yet how to be clean!" But they do not consider these things as we do. Those that couldn't agree with such things have died out long since and the remainder think that it is as it ought to be.

These last days I am staying in Tientsin, been packing in the different seeds I collected and making notes of them. Shipping is connected with considerable difficulty down here. For instance, there are a few taxes on all articles that are exported from or imported into Tientsin. Then there is the same thing in Shanghai and then again the papers for import into the U. S. And as everything goes pretty slow out here it takes a couple of days to finish a little job. An example: This morning I went to the Chinese express Co. so as to have them come up and ship my boxes with seeds but arriving at the office at 10 A.M., a decent time I should say, I only found people there who didn't understand a word of English,

but they said to my guide, "The manager will soon come." Well, at 12 this gentleman made his appearance and then he had not the necessary papers for export to the U. S., so I took lunch and went to the Consul but he was out on business and when coming back it was too late to fix things. So this whole day was lost and as the expenses are rather high here at the hotels, I can see the money disapper quicker than I like to see it go.

Yesterday another thing happened which has taught me a whole lot, but wasn't very agreeable. I had ordered a couple of tin cans to be made to ship the more valuable seeds in by parcel post;before soldering them I had made inquiry of the Chinese post office in regard to the maximum of weight allowed to the U. S. and the reply was 11 pounds. Well, when everything was nicely packed in and we went to the post office to mail things, I had the good fortune to have a man who didn't understand English well enough to be quite sure of what he did. So he showed me the postal regulations printed in English and there to my horror I found that parcels shipped directly to the U. S. are not allowed to be heavier than 4 1/2 pounds, but when shipped by way of London and then back to America 11 pounds are allowed. I fairly gasped at this and thought it was a Chinese misunderstanding or such a thing but I went to the Japanese Post Office (for there are all kinds of Post offices here in China) and found the same thing. The man in charge told me very friendly and politely that he could send my packages as far East as Yokohama but then it had to go back again to Shanghai and to be carried clear around the world to America. He also said that Japan was trying to make a postal treaty with the U. S. so as to make

11 pounds the maximum. It is a disgrace to the U. S. of America that such a condition is tolerated.

Well, I'll pack the things in a box now and ship them by freight. There are four of these packages, two for Chico and two for Washington, D. C. and when Mr. Dorsett gets his two out of it, he can send the other two to the Department in Washington. When the boxes are out of my room, I'll send you word and notes about the contents.

Enclosed are a few photos which give me much joy in my lonesome evenings. Are they all right?

Now, I finish with best regards to all and a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Peking, China.

November 14, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I forward to you six bundles of cuttings and scions of different plants I collected.

I sent another lot to Chico but I really don't know what to send to you in Washington and what to Chico. I haven't enough to send duplicates of things.

The grapes, and apricots I had better send to Chico as the climate there is so much better for propagation, but things like poplar cuttings, elm scions, pear scions, seedless persimmon scions, Catalpa cuttings or scions (?) I had better send to you. Then these

things can be distributed among nurserymen , or some kept like the pears and persimmons. Of the poplar cuttings, Prof. Sargent wanted some. I didn't send him these for I really am not sure whether the poplars will stand such a long journey. If kept a trifle too warm they all start growing.

I am very anxious to know what shape things arrive. I didn't use as yet any tin cans on account of these things not being considered very fit for long journeys. This moistened sphagnum, together with the oil paper wrappings ought to keep things nice. I had some things packed in that way and on a 16 day trip into a very dry climate they kept wonderfully well.

The numbers on the packages correspond with the numbers on the paper and with the labels inside, so I hope there won't be any confusion.

One thing about the numbers which I would like to have you alter and that is, that the seeds in the big box I sent get the letter "a" behind their number. They are only from 3 to 14 inclusive so that is a small affair. I will from now on label all the dry seeds with an "a" behind (for instance, 12a) and use for moist things the number without any letter added. If I labelled dry seeds or samples of fibre in that way I had to use all my metal lables and these things are, like so many more articles, exceedingly difficult to obtain here.

To Chico I sent 7 bundles. I enclose the cards herewith. To Prof. Sargent two bundles with cuttings of plants more of botanical than economical use.

Enclosed are also the twelve cards of seeds I sent a long time ago. Very soon I will ship you some more seeds. I am so busy these last days after returning from Mongolia that I hardly know what to do first.

I had some trouble with my help also. The first coolie resigned. The life was too strenuous for him. Well, I got another on more pay and I hope to be able to keep him somewhat longer and the guide who had had attacks of homesickness and sentimentality while we were on the road got again a bad one and skipped out to his relations in Tientsin. He has returned again, however, but I couldn't get along very well during his absence.

You haven't an idea, Mr. Fairchild, how little hardy these Chinese are. It would take me too much time just now to go into details. I have started another letter which I hope to finish bye and bye.

I received your book of Henry. Many thanks to you. Also got the ordinary and the parchment letters of introduction. When do you expect me to go to Manchuria? It is very bleak now. I think spring is better. I also got the bulletin about Consuls, etc.

I was obliged to buy another camera which works fine. It is the same kind but it seems to be stronger. I had to pay $85.00 Mexican for it. Dearer, isn't it, than at Home? Yes, everything foreign is rather dear here. The other camera I sent up to Shanghai for repairs as that shutter was out of order, but the people wrote me after long delays that they couldn't repair it and after much correspondence and even wiring on my part we decided to ship it back to the States and have an Unicum shutter put on. After a couple of

months I'll get it back. The firm (Denniston and Sullivan) wrote me that out of a lot of twelve of these shutters they had to send every last one back to the Eastman factory in Rochester as none would work properly. So I am partly glad that I am not the only one.

It is turning colder and colder down here and soon the traffic by water between Tientsin and Shanghai will be stopped, so I have to hurry. I really should have been here a couple of months earlier. It would have saved me lots of work.

Well, soon more will follow. With best regards to all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Peking, China

November 14, 1905

Mr. P. H. Dorsett,

Chico, California.

My dear Mr. Dorsett:

Herewith, I forward to you 7 bundles of cuttings and scions which I hope will reach you in good condition.

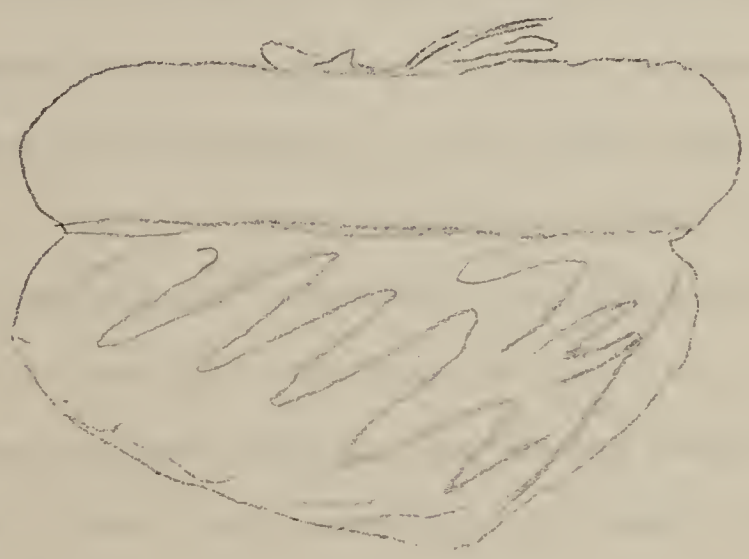
The majority are grapes and there are a few among these which are probably very valuable; especially 101 and 102, which are very long berried grapes and of excellent quality.

I really don't know whether they expect me to send the majority to you or to Washington, as they didn't leave me specific instructions, but I'll make from the doubt a certainity and send you the more valuable things and those plants I am sure of that do well

with you.

I didn't send you any persimmons yet, but after a few weeks you'll get some tho, for this persimmon is the most valuable fruit I have found as yet. I wrote the Department that I estimated the value of it to the States at 50,000 dollars and I don't consider this as a maximum value at all.

I'll try to give you a short description of it. To start with it is perfectly seedless, grows as large as 4½ inches across, can be picked when green and shipped over enormous distances or when ripe and soft, can be frozen hard and shipped in that way. Care of course has to be taken to not let it thaw until one needs them for consumption. The shape is conical, this way:



The color is bright orange and last but not least they taste fine. After a long walk it is a delicious thing to eat a couple of the lucious fruits. It is meat and drink at the same time. The natives graft the scions of this seedless one upon a small-fruited wild one and they have some beautiful orchards of them. I collected a whole lot of seeds of these wild ones and hope the U. S. people will have plenty of stock

plants after a few years. Just now I advise to graft upon Diospyros Virginica. In California of course you can use D. Kaki, but I suppose this persimmon to be much hardier than D. Kaki. The climate around here is like Utah and So. Colorado climate, so not being extremely cold it is far from warm tho, in the winter time.

How are you getting along these days? I sincerely hope Mrs. Dorsett has taken a turn fo the better. If you find time, let me know in a line or two how things are with you.

I am these days awful busy, they say busy as a wig maker with one customer, but I don't mean it that way. No, you see I was really sent out too late, so now I have to locate things and collect at the same time, while I first ought to have overlooked the country, and had made notes and then go in this time and get material. Well, hereafter, better is the saying and I'll make the best of it now.

Life is very strange in this Chinese land. When I am out in the country I sleep on brick beds and most times with no fire underneath, so one really hates to lie down. And filthy the Inns are. Well, I rather be silent on that subject; when I tell you that chamber-pots and waterclosets are unknown, then you may imagine the rest. How a race can thrive in such conditions is a puzzle to me, but they thrive just the same and China with its 430 million people is going to come to the front these days, for the people, notwithstanding all their dislike for sanitation, are a solid kind of men and they possess many sterling virtues.

In agriculture they are experts. They till their land to perfection. They understand how to use nitrogen supplying plants between soil exhausting crops, and so one finds the soybean growing

between corn, sorghum and millet and small, green beans are grown between cotton and sweet potatoes. Dolichos beans are grown on the fences around garden spots, etc.

They go even as far as to bring one foot of heavy soil on sandy land and I saw one plot of perhaps 20 acres which had about 500 cartloads of such soil dumped on it. A tremendous work, ain't it. Yes, in America it would not do, but here labor is cheap and products are worth more in comparison than in a new country; an example of this is, that the land on which peanuts have been grown, after the peanuts have been pulled up and the nuts collected, to the depth of ¾ of a foot is entirely sifted so as to catch the last nuts yet. Isn't that tremendous?

Well, I enclose herewith the notes on the things I send you. A few days from now I'll send another batch. So goodbye now.

With best regards to all the friends, I remain

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER

Peking, China,

November 16, 1905

Mr. P. H. Dorsett,

Chico, California, U. S. A.

My dear Mr. Dorsett:

Herewith I send you 5 more packages containing cuttings, scions, etc.

The grape cuttings are a trifle shorter than we usually make them, but on account of the packages not being allowed to be too long, I had to make them that short. But you have good frames, haven't

you, so even if a stick had only 1 or 2 eyes you would be able yet to make it grow. I would suggest to root the cuttings in a frame or in a bench in the hothouse and then transplant them in pots in soil in which there is a liberal sprinkling of sand, as freshly rooted cuttings love plenty of drainage, and when your ground is warm and nice to transplant the things in the open.

You have plenty of peach, almond or apricot seedlings, haven't you? So for those apricot scions you probably have stock enough.

When I was with you in Chico last July, you asked me to look out for nice shade trees which might be fit to make an Avenue for the garden. Well, I must say that if I was you, I would collect a lot of seeds of that big Camphor tree in the Bidwell grounds and raise a nice lot of trees from them. You have a fine, straight stemmed specimen there, which has proven to be able to withstand your climatic ups and downs. In Japan I have seen some most beautiful specimens of old Camphor trees which command one's highest admiration.

You rather would like a deciduous tree? Well, when Camphors get high up there is plenty of space left at the base to let wind and partly sunshine come in and as in keeping the road wet in the rainey season, well, if the curve of the road is of the right shape and a macadam coat is on the top, then the wetness really don't cut much figure.

I have another tree in mind and that is also an evergreen, i.e., the white barked pine. This pine is really unknown in the States except for a few small specimens down east, but it is such a wonderful beautiful tree, that I am amazed it isn't more known. Imagine a pine

tree with a silvery white bark, which peels off in small particles, which looks in the distance as if someone had whitewashed it, even till in the top branches and you have about an idea how the plant looks. I saw one specimen on the grave of the 2d Ming Emperor, that was 10 feet in circumference and was certainly 120-150 feet high. A most beautiful object to behold.

Now there is one great pity about these pines and that is they are such awful slow growers. A tree has to be at least one century old before it is making a nice impression and when it gets from 2-3 centuries old, then they really become imposing. Yesterday I saw a 15 year old specimen in a Missionary's garden in Tung Shon and the plant was not quite 6 feet high, so notwithstanding all its beauty, I wouldn't advise you to plant it as an avenue tree. I'll send you the seeds tho' and I would suggest to you to order a few sacks of peat soil so as to have a good medium to grow all kinds of coniferous trees on. That peat soil is about sterile and those nasty dampoff fungi which attack young conifers especially seem to hate that soil for it is slightly acid and the vegetable matter is so decomposed that actually there is no medium for the fungus in to start on.

I found some weeks ago, some walnut groves in which the people have hard, soft and even papershell walnut trees. Those papershell nuts one can peel off with his fingers like peanuts. In a few days, I am going to get scions, for when I visited the place where they were, the leaves were still on the trees.

They also grow a most beautiful kind of cabbage here. It is a longheaded one and tastesm when boiled, not unlike stewed endive, and if it will grow successfully in the States, it will be

a fine acquisition.

Yes, one gets, by finding such things a great amount of pleasure out of it, which offsets for a great deal, the hardships one has to go through. One thing is not pleasant, there is none to share pleasure or sorrow with. I have of course the guide and a coolie, but their vocabulary of English is exceedingly limited and it is a poor kind of conversation one has to conduct with these people. Of course, their so called pigin-English is awful funny to listen to, but when one trys to impress an important thing upon their minds, well, then the difficulties arise. To repeat from 3-5 times is always the rule and then one better give some more explanations, otherwise for soup they bring soap, etc.

Well, I conclude with wishing you all, the very best.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Peking, China.

November 16, 1905

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I send you another batch of parcels containing cuttings and scions. I sent them all by Japanese mail, because this goes from Peking to Tientsin, then direct to Nagasaki and from there along the coast to Yokonama to be transferred on the Vancouver steamers. It is at the same time the quickest and the coolest route.

(About No. 102 (16927) I may say that I sent Mr. Dorsett some and also a few sticks to Prof. Sargent, so you may use the entire package for Atlantic Coast distribution. It is a fine greenish grape which I got in Mongolia the other day. It is extremely bleak and cold up there so I trust the plant may do well in pretty severe

climes. They bury all their grapes here in North China so I would suggest that you protect the plants during the winter until it has been found out whether they can stand a North American winter or not.

Yesterday I was in Tong-shan, near Peking, where I looked over the grounds of the Mission there for Mr. Tewksberry, the one who started the fruit growing there, had asked Mr. Williams, of the Legation, to inquire whether it would be possible to visit them and give some advice. Well, they have started nicely in growing foreign vegetables and strawberries, but in the larger fruits they met with many difficulties. For instance, apples and pears freeze back considerably during the winter, for the ground gets very dry in that season on account of having no rain and very little snow and having sunny weather most of the time. Well, I suggested to do like the Chinese do with all their orchards and that is, to plow shallow and rake two or three times so as to give the soil a mulch, which prevents the subsoil from sending water (through capillary action) to the top. And by having the subsoil moist, the twigs of apples and pears would retain moisture enough to withstand the frosts. I also suggested to get the fruit trees not from the moist wintered regions of America, as he had done until now, but to inquire from the Experiment Stations in Wyoming, Idaho, Utah and Colorado what kinds of fruits do best in these states and order such varieties as are recommended, for the climate around here is about like in the above states. In Mongolia it resembles Wyoming much; around Pekin, a Utah climate prevails; in the mountains one finds a mixture of Colorado and Utah; and in the northern plains have really a mixture of the

whole far west.

They also showed me the cracked bark of the imported apples and pears which had become so since they were planted. Well, we have the same in Southern California where during those long sunny spells the same thing happens. I advised to whitewash the stems so as to reject the heat instead of absorbing it. And now I come to a most highly interesting point here and that is that nature does do the same thing here in North China. The bark of all the trees I have seen here as yet is either pretty corky (also non-conducting) or--what is most remarkable--glistening white. Of this last that very beautiful white barked pine is the most striking example. An evergreen tree, growing in a sunny, dry climate, of which the winter months are especially hard on plant growth, and yet that pine grows taller and looks healthier than any of the other pines here. While the black-barked ones look gnarled this one goes high up. I do not doubt that this silvery bark which he throws off in patches, helps him immensely to pull so successfully through.

Other white-barked trees are three different kinds of poplars, one of them reaching very high sizes, the Juglans manchurica, and also the common walnut, J. regia sinensis and perhaps I'll observe more yet.

The fruit trees here look also somewhat different from at home. The younger branches glisten much more than in moister climates. they look as if varnished, no doubt to exclude evaporation and to reject heat. The things which do well in that mission garden are strawberries, rhubarb, celery and asparagus. They make even

some nice money with these articles. Well, strawberries grow nowadays nearly everywhere, for man considers this such a fine fruit that he simply has made an every-obstacle-overcoming strawberry. Those other three plants that do well are easy to explain. Rhubarb grows wild in the mountains of Mongolia, so this climate is more or less his original home, and celery and asparagus are both plants whose homes are along the seacossts where it would be prohibitive to absorb the water just as they found it, as the salt would kill them, so these plants are able to withstand great changes of humidity and temperature and also to resist draught and alkali, for there is some very salty matter in much of the ground here in North China.

About new things, I found of late I may mention the long-berried, white, or rather green grapes in Hsuen Hwa Fuin, South Mongolia, which are most excellent table grapes and are considered the finest in North China.

A white apricot described by the natives as very nice. I was, of course, not able to verify their statements, as I am too late for these fruits.

A white pear with melting flesh and considered a fine pear down here.

Among ornamental trees I was lucky enough to get a small quantity of seeds of the white barked pine. A tree of which truly can be said "it keeps its beauty in old age", a thing Mr. Pieters especially wanted me to be on the lookout for. This white pine is rather insignificant looking when less than a century old, but trees of 200 to 300 years old are beautiful and serene enough to worship.

I also got more acorns of the large-leaved oak of the Ming tombs. When I saw those trees first in September they were already interesting with their large glossy leaves, but seeing them a month later I could hardly believe my own eyes. They had changed from dark green into the most gorgeous scarlet. To see the sunlight play on these colors was like listening to the most inspiring music. I felt good and was at peace with the whole creation sitting under such a tree. I hope these trees can be grown successfully at home, for they are a fine acquisition, if thatis possible.

A maple. I collected seeds from in Tang-san, where the hot springs are. This maple is a slow grower, but in fine characteristic lines, when older and for beautiful masses of yellow, orange, scarlet, brown and green in the fall time it will be hard to beat.

Of the small wild persimmon I got seeds from old trees which had withstood successfully the severe cold and the storms which occur in the Nankon Pass. This is the pass in the mountains where the great wall of China passes through, and is the road leading into Mongolia, and has a climate of its own; cold, windy, dusty, little sun on account of the high mountains on both sides, and generally dry and bleak. Well, when you receive these seeds, I wish you would use only those for the colder regions of the States. I would not say for Minnesota or North Dakota but for New England, Long Island, the peach regions of Michigan, Utah and Colorado. The other wild persimmon seeds I got come from milder regions and as such the warmer part of the United States will probably suit them better.

About this Nankon pass I found another queer thing. It seems that the Juglans manchurica grows wild there. At least I saw a few small specimens which were left standing from the original growth. Well, that is not so very curious, but they also grow the Juglans regia sinensis there and it seems that these two species have mixed and as a result they have nuts for sale there which have characteristics of both. The nicest of these nuts (that is, in shape) are not eaten. O, no, they are very dear and are sold as stiffness-of-the-fingers-banishing remedies. You will probably laugh at this, but it is the solid truth. You'll see old Chinese all through North China, when they have nothing particular to do, take a pair of these nuts out of their waist-cloth and fondle them from the one hand into the other, or keep them in one hand and move them around all the time, not so quick though, slowly but steadily. I first took it as a superstition, just like we do in Europe in wearing a horse-chestnut in our pocket to banish rheumatism or to carry a mole's forepaw for the same thing and also for toothache, but this is really different. My guide explained in his Pidgin English that especially those men who were working in iron had to do this so as not to lose the suppleness of their fingers, and that seems to be the truth. So one always learns new things.

I'll send you a few of these nuts and if anybody in the Department gets cramps in the fingers from writing too much, they may be kept in a handy place for such a purpose.

From the western hills, I got a small quantity of seeds from Pistacia sinensis. I hope to find time to yet go myself; now I employed a coolie and he didn't get as much as we told him to get.

You will find these seeds very small, so as a fruit it will never be anything, but as I understand, the Department wants them for stock plants, isn't it? The tree looks exactly like a sumac. Now coming to this, have the different sumacs ever been tried as stock? The pistache belongs to the same family (Anacardiaceae) so it may be quite possible that they unite. Here in China they graft (See footnote) the cherry sent under No. 93 on peaches. Chrysanthemums I have seen 10 different varieties grafted on the side branches of a big Artemisia annua (a wormwood) and the fragrant olive (Olea fragrans) are all grafted upon a small leaved privet (Ligustrum sp.) so why shouldn't the pistache go on the sumac?

Well, as I see I have reached the 16th page, that will do for this time.

With best regards to all, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

(Footnote) I say grafted, but it might have been budded. I saw as yet only 2 specimens on that way and both were too old to see in what way they were put on the peach stocks.

The cherry (if it is one) is a bush and treated like a currant when propagating, that is, by division and it is only in case of wanting some fancy thing that they graft it on a high stem peach, just as we grow a straight stemmed gooseberry on a Ribes aureum and graft or bud a red currant on the top of such a shoot and have then a fancy plant.

Tientsin, China,

November 20, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I am sending you the account with the different vouchers for the month of October 1905. I am somewhat late, but I can't fix dates here, like one does in a civilized country, so I have to be excused for that.

There are a few things in the account which may need some explanation, for instance, I bought a sheepskin and Chinese boots for myself and had also to supply my guide and coolie with a coat and with boots. Those people are not accustomed to the cold of Mongolia and when one goes in such a country the traveller is supposed to supply his servants with such articles as sheepskin and heavy boots.

The baggage transfer is also sometimes higher than the allowed 50 cents. Well, when I have collected seeds and plants those have very often to be transferred on the backs of coolies and as such, it sometimes costs more money than I would like to see it cost, but one can't help that.

About the money; I mean, to use the Mexican dollar or to use the Gold Standard as I have done up till now, I haven't decided yet, but if silver keeps on going up as it does now, I think I'll be obliged to do so for otherwise I am going to lose too much. I have reckoned up till now one dollar Mexican equals 0.50 U. S, gold. but these last weeks silver has gone up so terribly that I got the other day only $92.35 for my 10 pounds, while the first time I got $103.40. In this last case I got a trifle too much by reckoning

1 - 0.50, but now I lose much more than I gained.

The money question is very difficult here. In the one place one receives many more cash for his dollar than on another place. For instance, in Hsuen Hwa Fu we only got 660 cash for our good dollars. Twenty miles farther south it was 680 and close to Peking they gave even 740, but then they reckoned in dollars again and wouldn't receive the cash we got farther North. We took many pounds of brass coins with us, but they gave out sooner than we expected and so we had to exchange silver dollars which were clipped in two pieces and then weighed. I had also several pounds of copper coins which are used in the treaty ports, but they simply refused to accept them. The landlord of our hotel in Hsuen Hwa Fu, a city of certainly over 20,000 people and only about 100 miles north of Peking asked me for 4 or 5 of the copper pieces to give them as foreign coins to his children! They had never seen them as yet. Isn't that queer?

Well, a man gets used to all these difficulties, but it tires one out a little, that's all.

I suppose this letter has to be shown, perhaps, to the Division of Accounts. Well, I hope the explanations are considered satisfactory.

With best regards to all, I am

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Tientsin, Nov. 27, '05

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Today I shipped one wooden box containing 4 tin cases with seeds to the Plant Introduction Garden, Chico, care Quartermaster, U. S. Army, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. and after many weeks I suppose you'll receive it. Well, when you get it, I wish you would keep the two cases addressed to you and ship the others by quick despatch to the Dept. at Wash. D. C. They are packed nicely, so I suppose you'll receive them in good shape, if, however, they don't arrive in good state, I hope you'll be so kind and mend the 2 cases to be sent to Washington, D. C. so that they may cross the continent without breaking up.

Enclosed are the notes concerning the seeds sent to you: About a few I might give a few explanations, f.i. No. 94[a] is a larger var. than usually met of the Chinese wild persimmon; on the note I put; otherwise the same description as under No. 57[a]. Well that simply means that I send No. 57[a] to Wash., D. C. and said of it that this is the wild persimmon on which that big seedless one is grafted and that the wild tree itself is decidedly ornamental and will also be appreciated as a small fruited fruit tree.

No. 137[a]. I simply put a copy in of the card I wrote, which I sent to Wash., D. C. These seeds I sent to the Dept. but the other 2 numbers, which are the greatest quantity, I shipped to you.

In No. 147[a], I refer to 52[a]. Well, that last number I sent to Wash., D. C. and on that card I remarked that the tree keeps its leaves till late in fall and when loaded with the large scarlet fruits is highly attractive.

To Wash., D. C. I shipped today also 4 large boxes with seeds, nearly all more or less agricultural things, like rice, corn, beans, sorghum, etc. In those 2 thin cases there are the fine vegetable seeds of which they may send you perhaps a few also.

The acorns in your packages may perhaps arrive in a more or less delipidated state, for acorns don't stand shipment over long distances very well. No. 65 is also a little worm-eaten but you may try;if they do not come over well this time, perhaps the next it will be better.

In that one paper bag under the Letters A, B & C, I put in some seeds just for you to try them, without being obliged to make any report of it. A. are different kinds of beans from different places, just see what you get out of it. B. is a little dryland rice from Chang-li. See if it will do with you. C. is a large pepper grown much around here. You may see what it does with you there.

One thing isn't very nice for me here and that is that it takes such a horrible long time before I receive any answers or before I know whether a shipment arrives well or not. I gess I have to put up with these things tho.

Well I wish you a Happy Xmas and a New Year with more joy than the preceding one. How is Mrs. Dorsett now?

Goodbye to you All,

Yours sincerely, Frank N. Meyer

Tientsin, November 28, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

The boxes with seeds have gone down to the shipping office and they will go aboard in a couple of days. There are four large ones to the Department in Washington, D. C., and one small one containing four tin cases to Chico, California. I wrote Mr. Dorsett also, notifying him to send two of the tin cases to Washington, D. C. I addressed them care of Quartermaster, U. S. Army, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., and will notify that gentleman also.

I do not know how the Department distributes now seeds like these, but I would suggest to give the vegetables only to expert growers, for some will be extremely valuable. No. 1 a, for instance, is a remarkably fine cabbage which will be a high priced vegetable when it is possible to grow it successfully. No. 2a is also a superior strain of the red turnip and will be particularly attractive at agricultural shows or in vegetable exhibitions.

The enclosed notes apply only to the tin cases, for, intending to send them by parcel post, one is not allowed to put written matter inside; the other seeds, however, have all notes inside. I am anxious to know how things arrive and whether they are considered worth the money.

Today I am going to Chang-li and Shan Hai Kwan for a week or more to obtain scions from the different varieties of walnuts, Crataegus pinnatifida, pears, a small seedless persimmon, etc.

With best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Tientsin, China,

December 8, 1905

Dear Mr. Pieters:

Here is a reporduction on a postal of the beautiful white barked pine tree. Can the Department make use of these cards in distributing them with new varieties of trees or vegetables?

With best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Tientsin, Dec. 14, '05

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Yesterday I shipped to you 9 packages containing different things, collected here in N. China.

I would suggest to you to give the cuttings and scions a good fumigation, especially the walnut scions, for I noticed some small scales on them, looking like San Jose scale. It might be well, perhaps, when you could put a few of them in alcohol and to send them to Washington for identification.

I send you those walnuts, because there is no place East where they grow walnuts, isn't it. It may be a trifle warm perhaps for them at your place but let us try it anyway. These walnuts here are fully equal to the Californian nuts and there are beautiful, large, softshell nutted trees scattered through the groves. They only grow from seedlings and of course an orchard consists of all kinds of trees; papershell nuts, which can be peeled like peanuts, and hardshells which need a sledge hammer to crack them,

everything mixed.

The small pine tree and the 2 carrots I simply send as an experiment, if such things arrive in good shape after such a long voyage, then it may be possible to send other things that way also.

Among the seeds I sent you the last time, there are some crataegus fruits, well perhaps you know that these seeds remain dormant sometimes for 2 years and many a man who doesn't know it, might throw them away after having waited a couple of months.

When we were together at Chico, you asked me to find out whether the Japanese use any special process to cure their rush stems (Scirpus sp.). Well Mr. Susuki of the Yokohama Nursery Co., told me no, they just dry them and to get that grayish color in them they sprinkle ashes on them. In how far that is so, I haven't been able yet to ascertain myself.

Enclosed are also the notes concerning the plants.

How are you getting along these days. Is Mrs. Dorsett improved perhaps.

You are in the midst of the rainy season now isn't it. We here have it pretty cold and the river is already full of ice. It is not quite a picnic in these times to go out in the country and collect things.

Broken paper windows and ice cold brickbeds and more of these kinds of things. Well, I have a feeling I am doing a good word and that keeps me cheerful.

Well, goodby to you All,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER

Tientsin, China.

December 14, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Yesterday I shipped to the Department eleven packages containing cuttings and scions of different things which I collected these last weeks. I also sent nine packages to the Plant Introduction Garden at Chico and three bundles to the Arnold Arboretum.

I haven't got the least idea how you are going to distribute these things, but I would suggest to send to Prof. Sargent some of the poplar and willow cuttings, as he asked me to get some of them.

The walnut scions I shipped to Mr. Dorsett, for you haven't any walnut stock in the East, have you?

The scions and budwood of Crataegus pinnatifida (No. 9) are especially valuable. There is only one grove of this kind near Chang-li and the proprietor didn't want to part with more sticks, otherwise I would have sent more.

It is getting pretty cold down here and out in the country one has to put up with many discomforts. I got a rather heavy cold and am not as active as I should be. Well, it will pass off again. Nothing lasts in this world.

Tomorrow I hope to go to Peking and perhaps will find some letters there with instructions. I have to do some collecting also and then my work will be over in North China, for it is getting very bleak now out here and not a leaf is to be found any more, not even on the ground, for the Chinese collect all leaves and burn them, just as theydo even the smallest shrubs. It is a most disheartening sight

to see boys and men to up even in the steepest mountains and pull out or chop off even the smallest shrubs or any vegetation that is burnable. They surely have little feeling for wild plants.

Enclosed are the notes concerning the different things sent. I am very anxious to know how things arrive, but I have to practice patience in these matters.

With best regards to all, I am,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Pekin, China,

Dec. 17, '05

My poor Mr. Dorsett:

How it grieves me to hear of the death of Mrs. Dorsett, your wife and the mother of your children. Why, why, we ask?

In my 2 last letters, I had already the feeling that she did not live any more on this earth, but I didn't dare to express it and put in the greetings to her, and now I am sorry I did, for it will recall to you too much! It aches me too, that I wasn't able to see her, when I was with you together at Chico. I had a silent hope that the mountain air would help her after the summer's heat was over, but it seems it had not to be so - .

I can't give you consolation anymore than you could give me if I was in the same circumstance but let me suggest, be brave! You have had so many hard things to battle with in your life and you have, thanks to your energy and optimism, always pulled thro and come out ahead, so I have a secret knowledge you'll swallow a bitter draught like this and come out nobler

and grander.

Happy for you and the children you got a mother yet to assist you. "The darkest cloud has always yet its silver linings." Isn't that true?

Well, I was pleased to hear from you again. I, too, have quite a few ups and downs in a strange country like this and a letter from a friend is always a treat.

You say you got my postal from Pekin. Didn't you get a few from Japan also. If not, they have been lost in the mails. Well, let it go.

I have been sending you also some letters, the last one registered, with notes in it concerning cuttings and scions, I sent. I hope you'll get them in good shape.

Yes, thanks for your suggestions concerning to be careful about foods and drinks. I learnt some lessons already. Unboiled water gives me nearly every time more or less bowel trouble so I have decided not to use it anymore.

Yes, about finding strange and nice things, you'll know by this time already about some of these. I am still as great an enthusiast yet about new things as before I found them, but the discomforts one has to go thro in this icy wintertime are pretty hard. But let them rest. No use worrying.

I am glad Mr. Pieters was delighted with the Garden. He is a fine man and when he says he likes a thing, he means it. I haven't had as yet a letter from him, but I expect one tho before long. But he is so busy you know.

Well, wishing you all further success and know that after a long night the sun is bound to appear again.

Yours very sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER

Pekin, China.

Peking, China,

December 20, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I send you my accounts for the month of November, 1905. A few items may need some explanation. In the first place I made out everything in Mexican silver; for silver is still ever on the rise and every time I exchange money I get less. A few days ago I got only $181.04 for 20 Lbs. I don't like that a bit.

I haven't taken my wages out as yet for I would lose too much on it. All the legation people and consular officers complain about it, too.

Well, on November 6 I gave out 3 dollars Mexican for pear and apple scions, twine and fruits in a small village called Tcha ching, North of Peking. This seems apparently much for China but the people there were not very nice, so first they wanted a silver dollar before they were willing to show me where their fruit trees were and then after I had cut some scions they claimed that different trees belonged to different owners and I had to pay quite a few 20¢ pieces to different people. Well, I thought it was better not to make trouble about it for they were not exactly the most pleasant kind of Chinese. I was glad I was good and well out of the place.

On November 8 I paid my coolie $15.00 Mexican. That is also more than is generally paid, but my first coolie skipped out on account of too strenuous work and too small pay, so I had to give more. In the cities where they have a permanent place, they get much less, from 8-10 Mexican dollars per month, but out in the country the lodgings are far higher and they wear more shoes, clothes, etc.

Some of the hotel bills are also high in comparison with the U. S. but as I have said before, life for a foreigner is most decidedly dearer in China than in most other countries.

My total expenses from July 26 up till November 30 inclusive, including railroad and steamship fares have been:

From July 26 - September 30 incl.	$268.90
From Washington, D.C. - Shanghai	302.00
From Oct. 1 - Oct. 31, incl.	246.65
	$817.55 Gold.

From Nov. 1 - No. 30 incl. 481.01 silver - - about $280 gold. So that is about 1100 dollars exclusive of my salary.

As you ask in your letter dated October 10 about how expenses run, I think just as you do, that the expenses are not as high here as in the far interior, for one can ship collected material very easy down here, but in the interior it has to be varied for weeks and weeks before it reaches a shipping point and to employ carriers adds enormously to one's bill of expenses.

In another letter I'll answer the non-financial problems.

With kindest regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Chico, Cal.

Dec. 20, 1905.

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Your letters of the 14th, and 16th of Nov. have been received. At this time I will only answer these letters in connection with the condition of the cuttings 112,113, and 118, which arrived on this morning's mail, 112 and 113, were practically worthless, the packages were very damp and showed on the outside of the interior paper evidence of black mould, the bark and cambium layers of practically every cutting was brown and dead, when broken giving off an odor indicative of fermentation, the cuttings together with the buds were plump and turgid, the buds were however dead, the basil ends that were coated with colodium I presume, seemed to show marked evidence of bad effect of this treatment. The cuttings of 118 were dry and more or less shrunken, but as a whole I believe in much better condition than either 12 or 13, however I doubt if we will be able to save any of the cuttings of these numbers, nevertheless we are putting in every one that shows any indication of life or of possible success.

Do you not think it would be advisable to try sending some of these cuttings and scions with their cut surface coated with paraffine simply wrapped in oil paper in tin cases that are practically air tight. Cuttings of olives and pomegranates ship-

ped in this way by Mr. Kearney from Tunis, in the majority of cases reached us in very good condition. These of course are only suggestions for you to consider. I realize that you know considerably more regarding packing and shipping of specimens than I do. It is very important that the material sent reach us in the best possible condition.

I am writing this at once so that you can modify your methods so as to overcome this difficulty. I will answer your letters in a few days in detail, and also write you the condition of shipments as fast as received.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and all possible success in your work, I remain,

Sincerely your friend,

(Signed) P. H. Dorsett.

Peking, China,

December 20, 1905

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

A couple of days ago, coming back to Tientsin I found four letters from you waiting for me. They are dated October 10, October 11, October 14, and October 26, 1905.

I will try to answer different things in them. Yes, the peaches were about harvested when I arrived in Peking and in that line I think I have to come a month or two earlier. I have sent a few peachsticks up to Washington, D. C. but I didn't see the peaches on the trees and the Chinese love to tell lies, so I do not think it wise to collect much simply on what they say.

I received also a letter from Mr. McGregor stating he received the bulletins. I thank you for your kindness.

The pruning shears I received and also two packages of tree labels which you didn't mention in your letter. I haven't been able yet to test the shears. They will rust pretty quick, not being plated, won't they?

Yes, it is a good thing you mention official stationery. I am pretty well through with these things and especially large envelopes are badly needed, but as you said before I left, I mustn't count on having supplies sent to me, I didn't talk about this. The typhoon ruined most of my paper and the envelopes are either glued together or have the glue soaked out. If you send it, please put it in a tin-lined box so that it comes over perfectly dry.

No, with outside parties I am always very careful with the paper, but these small sheets seem to be not such a good quality as the larger ones.

About forage plants, I have seen very little as yet. The Chinese cultivate nearly every bit of land and if hillsides are too steep, the sheep clear things pretty well up, but I'll be on the lookout for this kind of thing.

Up to the present, hull-less barley hasn't come under my vision. I myself have never seen it so I am awaiting your sample with interest. I didn't come up till now. About the tea is very interesting. I certainly will be glad to get such fine varieties, but at what time does tea seed ripen? I have never been on a tea plantation and as such know but little about matters concerning ripening of seeds, etc.

Do things shipped by way of Suez go quicker than by way of California? I didn't know that and am also not so sure about it. Mr. Shepard states it especially so I'll inquire here a little about this matter.

You ask about the boycott interfering perhaps with my work. Well, there seems to be a feeling growing here of trying to get rid again of the foreigners. As you know, long before this letter reaches you, there is plenty of trouble down South, whether it will travel up North nobody knows. The Legation people do not expect a general uprising but they think there will be plenty of local disturbances these coming years. I have been myself already in one of them. Two weeks ago when I was in Shan Hai Kwan, a foreigner was insulted by a Chinaman and he gave the Chink a beating with his walking cane. Then all at once a mob formed and the foreigner was stripped of his valuables, his clothes torn and he got some flesh wounds. I dressed them when he came in the hotel and as they were not deep they have healed rather quick. It got, however, not very safe for some of these foreigners there and they had to clear out to Tientsin.

I had also a rather queer case on the road from Shan Hai Kwan to Chang-li. In one village there were plenty of Chinese soldiers and they had occupied the best inn in the place. Well, they soon came to me and inquired from my guide what business I had to be in the country, where I was from, etc. I was refused permission to enter the inn where the officers were but when I was eating dinner a few Chinese officers came in and looked how the foreign devil behaved himself. Well, I thought it is better to be friends than enemies with them so I offered them of my food and drink of which they made liberal use and after they had enough they called some soldiers in who finished the crumbs, etc. Queer things, here in this country!

In Gopo, too, where the softshell and papershell walnuts grow, the people are full of suspicion of foreigners. It was not exactly easy to get a number of scions from them. Their best trees they would not show to me, even money didn't work and when I wanted really to know a large softshell tree of which I had bought some nuts the last time, they merely pointed out a few trees of which I almost knew they were not, for one could hardly have born more than ten nuts for it was a crooked little tree. Well, when a Chinaman doesn't want to say a thing the best way is to let it go. One can't come any farther with them. So I went away to the great pleasure of my guide who felt full of fear there. I think they told him a few things which made him upset.

Well, these little incidents add a little rest to this work and as long as one gets what one wants it isn't so bad yet.

I also had a letter from Rev. J. M. W. Farnham in Shanghai who writes he will be pleased to assist me in getting things. He also would like to have a few strawberry plants sent to him. He says for instance, a dozen (two or three plants of each variety). He would like good varieties and have them sent by mail this winter.

As you have seen in my financial letter the expenses are not so high as those of Mr. Wilson but I do it just now also on a moderate way. If a man wanted to travel here in comfort he had to take three times as much baggage with him. In this cold time, for instance, a stove and fuel would have to be carried and heavens knows how many more things which are almost necessities to us white people, but of which a Chinaman never thinks. It is tonight about 10° Fahr. here in Pekin, so you understand that out in the country where broken paperwindows and cold bricks abound, the cold is ever so much more felt than here where a man lives at least in a European hotel. Still, I think I will go out within a few days and get more persimmon scions and some cherries and some more little stuff. By the time I come back, there may be perhaps a letter for me, directing what to do next.

In my little book about fiscal regulations of the Department of Agriculture I see that one needs special salary vouchers. Well, I haven't got them, so in that box with stationery you might be so good and put a few in. Also some very thin, strong writing paper for really this paper is too heavy for foreign correspondence. The mail charges are rather high here.

I also received a letter from Mr. Mansfield stating he has sent me another shutter to replace the defective one. I didn't

get it as yet and when it arrives I do not need it because my new camera works O.K. They all say that the pictures I took are very nice. I'll send you a number of them shortly so that you may judge.

The last time I was in Shan Hai KWan I got a few more small bags of that dry land rice that will make it possible to extend the rice belt to New York. I also found some Sorghum that grows on rather alkaline land. In the next box of seeds I will ship these. Did the other boxes arrive? Yesterday I spoke with Mr. Williams of the U. S. Legation and with Mr. McCormick, a war correspondent for New York papers, and both told me they grow rice way up in Manchuria. Mr. McCormick told me also that there are fine forests around Kirin and he showed me photos of lumber rafts which come down the rivers. It must be an interesting country up there.

Well, this time I'll close. I would make a suggestion, though, before I finish and that is, I wish you would put a little less officialness in your letters and a little more warmth, for you see I am all alone here and am not much in conversation with fellow-men so one needs a little sympathy in his letters.

I remain with kindest regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Peking, China, December 21, 1905.

My dear Mansfield:

Tonight I am about through with my official mail and I'll write you an answer to your cordial and sympathetic letter.

I see with pleasure you had such a good time down the Potomac. Do you know, I wish I could have accompanied you fellows, for I know too well those beautiful banks, lined with trees of all descriptions.

So you are going to be a genuine Veterinary Surgeon. My best wishes to you during your years of study. Yes, in the line of professions, it is higher to be a reliever of distress than to be a producer of art, though both are good.

You were at the Great Falls, also? Yes, I know them too well. Didn't I go to them in that cold February night and didn't I almost freeze to death. Well, that is all past history again. Now I am living in different surroundings. You found at least chestnuts, but I, poor boy, found only rotten black walnuts. You ask me whether we have chestnuts here in China. Sure Mike, I say, nice ones, too. I hope the packages with them have arrived by this time in Washington.

About pictures, I may say that the people to whom I showed my work praise them all. It will take a professional man like you, of course, to see whether they are right or not. I have already sent a couple to Brother Fairchild. Ask him to show them to you.

No, Mr. Pieters and I do not write very much. That is, I wrote him several letters but didn't get an answer as yet. I suppose he is too busy, coming back from such a long trip.

Thanks for your trouble in getting my trunk. I am sorry you went to so much trouble for it. Well, as reward I'll send you some postals from time to time. Isn't that all right?

I got your shutter this afternoon, but I do not need it, for as you know probably already, I bought me a new camera which works O.K. It is also a screen focus 4 x 5 but the shutter appears to be much stronger. The other shutter is on the way to the States and a new one, an Unicum (?) is on the way to China. I'll have then two cameras but that is all right. A man never knows what there is going to happen with things here. I'll keep your shutter in case of emergency. The duplicate rubber ball is also very welcome in a country like this where things are so hard to obtain.

My sincere thanks to you for your hopes of my success. I hope you fellows keep on wishing me good things and sending me encouraging letters from time to time. You see, I am all alone out here and have often for weeks nobody to talk to, except my guide, who only speaks Pidgin English; like topside for above; bottom side for down below; 1 piece man for 1 man, etc., etc. For so far as I have letters from Mr. Fairchild they seem to be well pleased with my reports. He trusts I'll be able to keep them up so they think it is a fire that burns out quickly. Oh, no, you know me pretty well, don't you, Mansfield? Well have a look at me; do you think that when I want to make a success of a thing, I wouldn't be able to do so? Ha! Hear me laugh! I'll show them that the selection of Frank Meyer was a good one.

Your suggestions about being careful with water, etc., came a trifle late, don't you thing so, too? I could have been dead and buried long ago if I hadn't practiced an extreme care with water and eating raw things.

I have a number of pictures which I took in Boston. Thank you for these and also for those you were so kind to send to good old Jackson Dawson. Say, don't you think that they are nice? I was amazed to see how fine I took that hemlock hill.

Now, you talk about songs. Well, this side of the problem is one of the poorest here in China. The Chinese as a nation, do not care for amusements. Yes, they have a few tame things, but it doesn't amount to a row of pins. The white people have often phonographs, so as to keep the memory fresh and green of their native countries and here in Pekin or in Tientsin I often stop and listen to a nicely performed piece on such an instrument, but still, it isn't like the genuine article.

Your photo is fine, only you look far less serious in reality. Why did you look so full of dignity? The next one you take must be when you are in camp and just after having had a nice self-caught fried fish.

Well, now a little about this Chinese country. To begin with, it is getting pretty cold down here. Last night it was 10° above. I pity these poor beggars that lay by tens and hundreds in sheltered spots in the streets during the night, clad only in a few rags. Poverty is terrific here and in winter time especially. This country really has more people than it is able to sustain; and they are multiplying yet at a tremendous rate. The yellow peril is not such a chimera as some people think. Of course, in war the Chinese won't come so quick to the front as the Japanese, but in patient toil and in ousting every foreign-made article from the

markets of the world, in these they will be the real peril, and as such, they are greatly to be feared. As you have seen by this time in the papers, there is a strong feeling beginning to grow here in China to get rid of the foreigners. They are very foolish in making these demonstrations, for they are not able as yet to back things by force of arms like we western nations can do, but still, it may cause us foreigners quite some trouble these coming years.

I treat them always nice and kind, no matter how much they lie to me, so if I ever get into trouble, it will not be on my account.

I have suffered these last weeks quite some cold, while I was in the country. As you know, the Chinese have only brick beds and now when a room is occupied by 20 or 30 men, they have a fire underneath these beds, but when a white man wants a room unto himself, then, of course, one gets a room which is not much used and in which there is no fire. To heat those bricks takes more than a day and the smoke one has to endure during that time made me generally prefer to sleep on the cold bricks, but is far from nice I can assure you. When I eat my food in such a place, I sit on a few blankets and have an ordinary winter coat and a sheepskin on so as to keep warm, for the paper windows are in a pitiful state of repair and it would be better sometimes to have no paper at all, instead of hearing the wind flap the fragments up and down. Yes, my thoughts in such places are not always of the cheeriest.

Still, when the sun comes out the next day and I see the beautiful bluish mountains in the distance, then I felt again that it isn't so bad after all and so we go along from one day unto the other.

Well, Mansfield, this is a long letter, Ha! I hope you receive it in good health.

With kindest regards to all,

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Peking, China, Dec. 22, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Yesterday afternoon I got your letter dated November 6. It had been on the road exactly 6 weeks. Now, you ask me whether I think it advisable to spend the winter around Peking or go farther South. Well, it is getting very cold here, as I have already written you, but, when a letter doesn't reach me soon, I think I'll have to spend the winter here because in my letter of authorization there is written I can go only on written instructions. This is not very nice. Well, perhaps another letter will soon arrive telling me what to do, for of course, when this letter reaches you, it may be pretty near February, and when an answer comes, it must be in March and then it is hardly worth going down South. I think I should have been allowed a broader field of work as only around Peking, for as you see, now a man can't count on mail like in the States. Everything takes so much more time here. These last days I have had conferences with Minister Rockhill and the secretaries, Mr. Williams and Mr. Coolidge, concerning a passport and a written permit and a Chinese letter of introduction, all for Manchuria. It is far from

easy to obtain permission to travel in Manchuria and my things are being sent up to Tokyo; whether we'll get a favorable answer nobody knows. Mr. Rockhill spoke about me to Baron Lomura last night, but this shrewd gentleman answered with the characteristic polite Japanese way that he was very sorry but had no power to do anything of the sort. Well, it is worth doing some trouble for, for Manchuria seems to be a very interesting country.

About the bamboos, on Mr. Nating's place I have been speaking already. I hope to see them within a few days. I do not think, though, that they will differ much from those on Mr. Sun's place in Tientsin of which I sent you a photo a few days ago. Yesterday I also received the shutter sent to me by Mr. Mansfield.

The letter dated November 20 in which you ask me to send to your office a number of signed vouchers was received by me this afternoon. I am very sorry that I have to disappoint you in this, for I have only 7 vouchers left, that is two for this month, two for January and two for February, so I can't part with them. Please send as printed matter a number of them, then I'll return them signed. To do the best I can, however, I will sign a whole sheet of signatures then you may clip them out and paste them on the vouchers, explaining matters. You'll say, "Oh, that won't do", but what else can we do? I am far away here from Washington and I am afraid my official supplies will run out some of these days anyway. A thing like a typhoon or a fire or a robbery, all these things are extreme in a land like this.

You speak also about duplicate and triplicate vouchers, about which you wrote me Saturday. Well, that letter didn't arrive as yet; maybe, though, in a couple of days. Well, it does me a very great pleasure that my letters are considered interesting. Now, in the next letter please tell me what things are the most interesting in them so that I have a little guidance in writing my next ones, for you see, I just put the things down as I think they are right and do not always know whether other people will think so, too.

With kind regards to all, I am

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. Yesterday I sent one letter through the Chinese Postoffice and another registered by way of Japanese Postoffice. Please let me know which one arrived there first.

Peking, December 28, 1905.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I send you four bundles of cuttings, by Japanese parcel post. They are mostly grapes, collected near Tientsin. You can use all these for Atlantic Coast trial, for I sent Mr. Dorsett an even larger quantity of them for Pacific slope distribution.

So it is also with the yellow rose. Chico receives as large a quantity as you. I wish you would send some of them to the Arnold Arboretum for Prof. Sargent asked me to get some for him.

That rose may prove to be a very good addition to our hardy shrubs.

I would suggest that you give the peach budsticks (No. 69) (17470) an especially good fumigation for there are some scales on them which may prove to be bad pests.

I also send you two small boxes of a new kind of grass for which I may perhaps get plenty of abuse from the lawn-mower factories and from the rubber hose concerns. Well, I don't care for that. It will save a tremendous lot of drudgery if we can establsih this grass in the United States. I had seen this grass a few times already, but on account of its remaining so short I didn't consider it so important, but after the Gardener of the German Legation grounds told me that it is really the only grass here in dry North China that keeps green notwithstanding long droughts and that it never needs mowing, I saw at once the utmost importance of it, especially for the regions in the United States where there is a slight amount of precipitation.

I wish you would mention in your next letter which box arrived in better shape. 70B is packed dry just as I found it, while 70C has moist sphagnum sprinkled between. <u>If possible, grow every bit of it!!</u> If it arrives in good shape, I will probably send more.

I received your letter of November 14 in which you mention the matter of sending in a statement of the rate of exchange.

Tomorrow I am going out to get some scions of the Pistacia sinensis, more seedless persimmon scions and many more small things. I expect to be out between eight and ten days. By that time I hope instructions have arrived telling me to proceed Southward.

With best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Peking, Dec. 28, '05.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Herewith I send you 5 bundles of cuttings nearly all of grapevines which I collected around Tientsin. I think they'll do well with you, for in the cold and wintertime none of them is left above the ground down here. The Chinese natives bury all their grapes in deep dugouts in the ground, covered over with soil on sorghum stems and with a few holes left open for ventilation.

There is also 1 bundle of rose cuttings of a yellow rose which may prove to be a welcome addition to our hardy shrubs.

Then I send you also 2 small boxes of grass, which may revolutionize the lawnmower business. You see on the note what a value I put on it. This is no joke! <u>If possible grow every bit of it</u>!!!

If you write me, please mention which one arrived best. 70B is packed entirely dry and 70C has moist sphagnum between it. It looks brown and dry now, because it has been freezing hard here already, but in this case looks don't count. The roots can stand any amount of drought and heat.

It is getting pretty cold here, a few days ago it registered 10° above; tomorrow I am going in the interior again for 8 or 10 days and when I come back I hope to find instructions

waiting me to proceed southwards.

Wishing you the best,

I remain, Sincerely yours,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Dec. 29, 1905

Dear Mr. Meyer:

I am in receipt of your letter bearing date of Nov. 14, 1905, together with identification cards Nos. 101, 103, 107, 110, 113, 116, and 118. The packages of vine cuttings Nos. 94, 95, 101, 103, 107, 110, 114, 115, 116, arrived Dec. 25th, for the most part they were in very good condition; one or two of the packages were quite dry, a few of them over moist, in which cases the cuttings were covered with black mould. I think however the majority of all of the cuttings will grow. A few of #101 were dead, 75 appeared in very good condition (This package was very dry) 102 has not yet been received. I saw Mr. Pieters in Frisco, Dec. 23rd, he said he would write you to send everything here and I could reship what was for Washington.

I arranged today for 200 wild persimmon stocks and can take care of any scions you may send. You no doubt have made a good find in that large one, we willbe glad to have scions of it any any others you consider fit to send. I think we should have some of the seed of the wild one you speak of.

We are all getting along very well, you surely have failed to get some of my letters. Mrs. Dorsett died August 13th. Mother from Washington is with me and helping me with the children.

They have been having malaria for some months.

Your letters are read by us all with much interest. The Chinese are surely more proficient in agriculture than Americans; your description of their rotations, intercropping and soil tillage are interesting and instructive. They are evidently a race of people that pay strict attention to details, in some instances it would seem that their time might be used to better advantage.

You failed to enclose identification care for #102. All join me in kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

In Charge.

Dec. 29, 1905.

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Your letter of the 16th of Nov. 1905, enclosing identification cards Nos. 94, 95, 112, 114, and 115, received. I have already written you concerning the condition in which the apricot scions arrived. Yes I think we can handle the grape cuttings even though they are short. We have plenty of peach but no apricot seedlings, these however, we can procure from the local nursery. Say, how about your sending one of those "white barked pines", that is fully 3 centuries old. I am a little afraid if we plant the seed that we will not be able to see it in all its grandeur and beauty. We already have about 25 sacks of peat soil. We will be glad to get the walnut scions, we have fine stock of the California and Eastern black and can bench graft those you send.

We will do the best we can with what you send.

Very truly yours,

In Charge.

Peking, China.

January 14, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

These days I am back again in Peking after having been out about eleven days. I haven't been frozen as yet, but suffered somewhat from a cold in my knee.

I got your letter just now, about the finances. Well, I think I had better sleep one night over it before answering - - but - -

Well, I will try to give an account of this last trip. On December 29 we started out from Peking enroute to Western Mountains. On the way I secured some pictures of whitebarked pine trees and got some cuttings and seeds of a large Lycium. That night we slept in a temple in the mountains where it was pretty cold, not having any fire in these airy rooms. The next morning a fine snow fell but at about one it cleared up and we had bright, cold weather. I utilized that time to get a lot of scions of the male and female pistache trees and has several men and boys at work to try to get a quantity of good pistache seeds, for most of the trees bore simply empty capsules. I paid many 20 cent pieces and got but little seed. It is very hard to get it for they are small and have about the same color as the ground from which they have to

be picked up. Notwithstanding my offering one Mexican dollar for a small linen bag full, they were not willing to do the job.

The Pistache, though, is a fine shade tree, especially the male form and for the mild-wintered regions of the United States it will be a nice acquisition.

In a temple yard that same day I collected a quantity of scions of the Chinese horse chestnut of which tree Professor Sargent had written to Mr. Williams of the Legation that it remains to be introduced yet into the United States.

Well, I would suggest that you send Jackson Dawson a few scions and obtain for the rest a good price from some nurseryman. It will probably be a good shade tree for the United States.

The last day of the year found us on the road in search of the famous Peking pear for which I have been looking ever since I cameto China and for which fruit I made quite a few trips in vain.

Well, I didn't happen to strike it until New Year's Day, but then my joy was great to start 1906 in such a nice way. I procured a whole lot of scions from this pear and from some more varieties and I would strongly recommend the Department to distribute every scion or bud, they do not need themselves and to give them to practical, successful growers only. For these pears will probably give us an entirely new strain of this fruit.

The soil is rather sandy, where these pears grow and a short distance from the orchards it seems to be entirely sand. To prevent this sand from being blown all over, the Chinese have long rows of small poplars planted from East to West. I send some cuttings of them. They may be of use in the States for the same purpose.

On January 2 we proceeded on donkey back to the mountains near Fang-shan. Well, we had to dismount most of the time on account of the passes between the rocks being too steep. I fell at one time flat under the donkey, or rather the donkey on me, but having a heavy coat on, none of my ribs broke. Well, I had heard there were some nice trees on an old imperial tomb in these mountains but to my great disgust I found that the trees in question had all been cut down some years previous. Yet, the trip was not in vain, for I found in these mountains the genuine wild peaches and apricots growing all between the rocks. There seem to be quite some varieties of these peaches. I send you herewith cuttings of three different varieties but doubtless there are more.

In a better season than this it may be nice to explore these wilds more thoroughly, not that I think it will contribute much to our fruits for the fruit has no value from an eating point of view and even for resistance of cold I hardly think it will be found to be good as such, but as a spring-flowering shrub or tree, it will probably be highly estimated. The natives at least told me that they are very lovely in springtime. Why I do not think they will amount to much in resistance against cold has this reason: in these mountains the cold raw winds are practically shut off and the rocks absorb the sun heat in the day time and let it very slowly radiate at night so it is as a rule warmer there than it is on the plains. One can see it by the trees. While walnuts, for instance, didn't thrive at all down below, up in these mountains they looked thrifty and healthy.

Some time ago there was an agricultural explorer out here in China in search of the wild peach, wasn't there? Well, did he find them? And where, if I may ask?

After having gotten these peaches we proceeded north again for a couple of days to obtain another lot of seedless persimmon scions and also cherry budsticks, which are budded and grafted by the natives on wild peach stock. That cherry is perfectly unknown to me; at least, I never saw a bush-cherry until I came to China. I am anxious to see the fruits next summer if I am here yet.

A few days ago I went to Fung-tai, a place close by here, to try to obtain a lot of plants of the hardy bamboo which is grown there in some nurseries. Well, they have only a small amount of it for there has been a heavy demand for them last year and it being a rather slow grower, increases by no means very fast. Well, the owner of the best kind didn't seem to be very willing to part with more than a few clumps. He said that this time of the year was the worst of the season to remove bamboo but that it is best accomplished in the hot, wet season, that is in July. Well, I think we had better try a few also in March or April. If I am not here, I'll try to find somebody to do the job.

Besides looking over the bamboos, I saw some other interesting things. They have several varieties there of the Juniperus sinensis. One is golden yellow, others very bushy. This plant is used here very much as a windbreak and around burial places because it is an evergreen and seems to be able to stand an immense amount of drought.

Then, they have yellow roses of which I have already sent

No. 67 and 68. Also a rose which looks like R. Rugosa but still differs. When they are in bloom I hope to see them again.

Beside outdoor plants, they have hothouses made of sorghum stems heavily plastered with mud and with vertical paper windows only on the South side. They are heated by flues and to keep the air moist they have large, open vessels filled with water placed at short distances from one another.

In the forcing houses they have also large, open vessels filled with liquid night soil so as to promote a healthy growth. That the atmosphere in these places is far from odoriferous, you may imagine. To my utter amazement I saw forced cucumber plants with nice cucumbers hanging on them. If a young cucumber shows a tendency of going to be crooked, the Chinese simply hang a piece of stone tied to a string on it and force it that way to be straight. Could we only do this thing to crooked people, too!

I inquired after the price of these cucumbers and they answered "50 cents a piece (Mexican)!" So this proves that a Chinaman also can afford to pay much for these luxuries. They do not grow their cucumbers in benches like we do, but have a few plants in a pot; first in a little soil and when the plants get older they add more earth.

They also had fine forced Paeonies which were forced in bloom in the ground above the flues and when in bloom they were planted in pots. They sell for 50 cents per bloom. They certainly looked fine. They were nearly all of the ordinary T. Moutan type and a few had finely pinnated foliage like T. Corallina.

Then they had forced Kerria japonica, Weigela amabilis, dwarf wild peaches in many varieties, dwarf magnolia yulan, dwarf cherries, (these last ones all forced in bloom), different kinds of oranges, sometimes 25 fruits on one small tree; so with the lemons, they had two kinds of these lemons, one kind like ours and very sour and one kind looking like a cross between an orange and a lemon and not very sour at all. Those oranges and lemons were kept in very cool houses, together with different varieties of Olea fragrans, Nandina domestica, which were loaded with scarlet berries, Oleanders, not hardy roses, and a few more of this kind.

In a very hot house they had a bunch of Jasminum sambac which were just coming in bloom, being heavily forced.

A totally novel industry was the forcing of onion sprouts. There was one house just chuck full of it. They were cutting them and washing and bunching them. It was there about 90°F. and I ate my lunch there and was treated to onion sprouts, tea and forced young leaves of the tree of Heaven (Ailanthus glandulosa).

There were about 8 coolies working half-naked, a furnace was burning and the scent of the onions and the vessels with certain liquids referred to together with the heat, the novel food and the change of temperature while going from one house to another, it was about 20° outside, well, this whole combination produced an effect upon my constitution which made me feel far from well, for a couple of days. Yes, a man has to go through strange experiences down here.

When in the mountains where the peach grows wild, I was followed all the time by a crowd of eight men and boys who walked

wherever I went. They certainly kept on following me for twelve miles, apparently for nothing else than to see how the foreign animal was acting. Every movement one makes is observed and comment passed upon. One feels like a monkey in the Zoo who is studied by a crowd of provincials. I sometimes get provoked at these things, especially when one feels a little out of order.

While in search of more seedless persimmon orchards, we happened to strike an awful bleak and poor region and having eaten but very little at breakfast, I got very hungry at eleven o'clock, but the first village we struck couldn't accommodate us, but the villagers said one mile from there was a nice place to get food and tea. Well, we proceeded only to find out it was a perfect falsehood. Well, these natives said again,"it is about 1½ miles that you find an inn." And again while reaching that spot there was nothing to be found. And so they kept that game on until at last at three o'clock in the afternoon I could stretch my cold, weary limbs out on a brick bedstead with at least a nice fire underneath. Well, I closed my doors rather hard, for I was mad with all these lying, yellow rascals, but after having had a pretty substantial meal, I began to feel better and began to think that theyprobably did it that way not to discourage us by telling at once that we had to go from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. before we would get anything to eat.

I also send with this letter the notes concerning the parcels which I hope to ship tomorrow. In a few days notes and photos will follow, too.

With best regards to all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. Perhaps the Department will send some of those pear scions to Chico, too, isn't it?

Peking, China,

January 14, '06

My dear Mr. Dorsett:

As you see I am back again in the capital, after having been out for about 11 days in the cold and in this time of the year far from agreeable country.

Well, my trip wasn't in vain tho. I secured this time scions of some very fine pears, got them also of the Chinese male and female pistache. The male tree especially may prove to be a fine shade tree for California. It is deciduous, has graceful pinnated foliage and assumes beautifulcolors in fall time. I put on the note concerning it, a number of names of different kinds of sumacs, but you have fine wild sumacs out in Cal. Couldn't you try a few of them too?

Then I found in the mountains near Fangshan the original wild peach and apricot. As fruit trees, they won't amount to anything, but as spring flowering shrubs or smalltrees, they may prove to be nice aquisitions.

I hope the young catalpa trees will arrive in good shape. This is a very beautiful tree and makes a stately trunk. It is exceedingly rare in Europe or America. There are here in China a

few varieties of them existing, at least three, but owing to my late arrival I haven't been able as yet to find them all.

You also have some willow cuttings sent to you under No. 121, 123. Wellthis is a very curious form of a willow. You remember the umbrella trees (Melia azedarach v. umbraculifera) down in Santa Ana? Well, they have really a small resemblance to them, but they are in summertime a trifle more graceful. If you plant some of them on a permanent place be sure to get them on a big distance of a road, otherwise their outlines are somewhat stiff to the eye. They do not need at all a wet place, indeed I should say they seem to grow here on very dry places.

I send most of the things this time to Wash., like pear, peach, apricot scions, etc. I think tho, they'll send some back to you.

In a short time I hope to send different seeds to you, among others a quantity of the Chinese pistache and some walnuts.

I just got a letter from Mr. Fairchild about my accounts. They are not in good shape.

I had made them out in Gold and now they want the official native currency, a currency which only exists on paper, but in daily life all other kinds of currency are used. Now how I am going to square this job is a puzzle to me. If I really will be forced to do it, I probably throw up the job and return for I am a botanist and not a banker.

You must know n.l. that out here in China there is not a stable currency. There are 3 kinds of dollars which allvary,

there are numerous kinds of silver coins which also vary, and then there are copper and brass coins which vary so much that one may travel 5 miles and get an entirely different number of small brass coins for 1 dollar as what one received in the place 5 miles up.

When I was in Hsuen Hwa Fu in Mongolia, I got only 640 pieces of cash for 1 dollar, but coming south again (about 60 miles) I received 750. Now, why that is nobody knows, but the fact is the same. So here in Peking we have large copper coins here, which are supposed to be 1 cent pieces, well you try to exchange a dollar and get copper for it. Do you know how much they give you? 80-83 cents! Well, if I am going to translate that money again in official money, that not exist in reality, well then I want a bookkeeper and an accountant all the time with me. Well, I'll sleep one night over it anyway and see tomorrow.

Enclosed are the notes concerning the parcels.

I also got a letter from Mr. Pieters. He says you are very busy and need more help. Good news!

Mr. Oliver wrote me, too, not a long one tho.

Well, wishing you the best and with best regards to all,

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

FRANK N. MEYER

Jan. 15, 1906.

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Your welcome letter from Tientsin, dated Nov. 27, 1905, with enclosed identification cards received. The box, however,

has not yet arrived. I will do as you request when it is received. I will note all your descriptions and remarks regarding the various plants and seeds sent us upon our record cards, and will do the best we can to get things to germinate and grow. We have been having some quite cold weather 23° above 0. I see from the papers that it was 25° above 0 at Riverside and 23° above at Anaheim, I guess it was cold enough at Santa Ana too. We are getting ready for our spring planting, so far we have only had about three inches of rain.

I agree with you it is a long time between mails, however, I suppose by this time you have received a few of my letters.

We passed a very quiet Xmas. Mother who has been with me since my wife's death helped me fix a tree for the children; they enjoyed it very much. I thought of you and wondered what you were doing and how you would spend your Christmas.

Let me hear from you when it is convenient. All here join in kindest regards and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Very truly yours,

In Charge.

Peking, China, January 15,1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

As I wrote in my letter yesterday I was going to sleep one night before answering your letter. Well I have slept and my con-

clusions are: The game is not worth the candle! In other words, I would like to be recalled. You see, my work here is very far from being easy, but I do not mind physical hardships much, but to get all these troubles with the money, too, is a little too much.

That expenses have to be stated in the native currency is all right, but when official currency only exists on paper and all other currencies are used in actual life, well that would require a bookkeeper with me all the time. You must know, namely, that the so-called Tael is simply a measure of a lump silver and it doesn't exist as a coin. Moreover, this measure varies in each town and even in different parts of a town. I varies not only in purity but also in weight. Then, the Tael is divided in smaller bits of silver, which again are divided in copper and brass coins of all descriptions and values.

But the people do not reckon them by the Tael value. No, they consider them as parts of the dollar. Now, I have seen here already three different kinds of dollars in circulation, i.e., the Mexican dollar in use everywhere, the Hong-Kong dollar very scarce, and A chinese dollar met very much between Tientsin and Shan Hai Kwan. Now, these dollars differ all three in value. The Mexican one has a nominal value of 100 cents, the Hong-Kong one of 103, and the Chinese but 90 cents. But this is only nominal value. In reality one gets for a Mexican dollar only 80 or 83 copper cents when one exchanges it and for the other two 85 and 70 cents. Exchanging the Mexican into cash pieces one gets in the one place 640 and 50 miles farther 800 pieces. In the places between, it varies with every two or three miles. So

that shows you what an immense trouble one has with his ordinary accounts.

The amount of one's bill in a hotel is never made out in Taels and as the Tael changes every day in value, you may imagine what a thing that will be to change the amount of every day's lodging into Taels. No, we can't do that. If the Comptroller of the Currency insists upon every day's amount being made out in Taels, then Agricultural exploration will be impossible under this system!

There are two ways, though, to enable one to go along yet. The one is to change the total amount of one month into Taels at the exchange of the average stand of the Mexican dollar pro Taels.

And the second thing is to pay the explorer 5000 or 6000 p.a. and let him pay out of this all expenses; His money could be sent to him in a check monthly or quarterly and his appointment could be for 1/2 year or 1 year, just as they thought best. This last system would do away with any account, but it might prove that with a long lasting expedition the funds would not be sufficient.

Well, I am waiting now for the letter Mrs. Bell is drawing up. Perhaps it will give me a little more light.

If you receive this letter I wish you would cable me one of these two words: Return. Stay. I do not mean you have to do it immediately. No, first you probably will have some conferences with the other officials; but after that I would like to know as quick as possible. Otherwise, I may make expenses

which I can't get back and that won't do for I am not a rich man.

With best regards,

Respectfully yours,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. This morning I shipped to the Dept. in Washington 20 parcels, all by Japanese mail, and 7 parcels to Chico. They all contain cuttings and scions of different things I have found. I am anxious to know whether they will arrive in good shape or not.

About the financial matters, I have to mention one thing yet, and that is, I didn't get any signed statements from the banks whenever I drew money and I also do not know exactly how much I got every time. What a pity I haven't been informed of all these things before I left. It would have saved us lots of worry. Well, clouds and sunshine have to interchange.

F.N.M.

January 25, 1906.

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Your welcome letter of the 17th of December, 1905 received. I appreciate your letter and also your kind words of sympathy at the loss of my wife. It does seem good to know that friends though many miles away sympathize with us in our troubles; yes with you, I regret that you did not see her when you were here. She thought so much of you as a friend and was always pleased to hear from you. My dear friend it seems that I miss her more and more as time passes. Our dear little children need her so much, I can't do for them as she did and could. Dear old Mother helps me a good deal, and I do not know how I

could get along without her. But she is getting quite old and her health is none too good. You are right, I sometimes feel that I have had more than my share of trouble. However I must live and work not only for myself but for the children, I must be to them both a Mother and a Father. Yes they tell us that "the darkest cloud has a silver lining", and no doubt that is true; it sometimes seems that the darker portion of the cloud has so far overshadowed me, and yet I have much to be thankful for. Yes you too have had some of the bitter mingled with the sweet. But you are now in your element and I am expecting you to make a flowering success. No doubt you have many disagreeable experiences, and yet there is a fascination about your work; new country, strange and interesting people, new, rare, and valuable plants, all of which stimulate a desire to push onward. The photographs you sent are fine, I would not take the tree to be a pine, I can easily recognize you near the trunk of the tree. The mountain scene is beautiful, I can imagine how you enjoy such beauties of nature. Yes I received your photos from Japan, and have written you several times. Two previous letters containing invoice cards received and answered. The registered letter of the 14th of Dec. arrived today. The shipments referred to in these have not yet arrived. No doubt you have heard from Mr. Pieters before this. I met him in San Francisco last month, he was out on special business.

Well, be good to yourself and remember us when you find anything that you think will do well with us. We will do the best we can to get what you send to grow. Look out for the Yang taw,

Actinidia chinensis, and get me such information as you can concerning it, the quality and value of the fruit, etc; also look out for the wood oil nut, Aleurites cordata, we have about a thousand plants growing here now. If possible secure us some Juncus effusus seed, matting grass.

Do you find Juglans cordiformis and Juglans Sieboldiana to be one and the same thing. I would like some seed of these also of Juglans Manchuria if it grows there.

All here join me in kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely your friend,

In Charge.

Peking, China,

January 27, 1906

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

A few days ago I received the letter signed by Dr. Galloway and requested by you to proceed to Shang-hai as soon as the weather became too inclement to do any more work in North China.

Well, the weather has been pretty rough of late. We got several heavy snowfalls and quite a few icy dust storms. So within

a few days I hope to start by railway from Peking to Hankow and from there down the Yang-tse to Shanghai.

I am waiting just now for a few letters which probably will arrive in one or two days. I got a letter from Mr. Dorsett telling me that the first three parcels with cuttings arrived in bad shape. I am very sorry to hear that. I packed them in as I thought it would be right, but the distance is so great and Heavens knows in what places they kept those parcels sometimes, perhaps close to the boiler rooms or in other heated places. If they all arrive in bad shape, we will have to do the whole thing over and I have to take the cuttings or plants over as personal baggage. I have kept some cuttings wrapped up in the way I sent them in my baggage for about three weeks and they were as nice after that time as before, but I had kept them cool. If, however, they are kept in a warm temperature, they probably suffocate as is the case with most of my shipments, I fear. I can try to send them without Sphagnum, but then they will probably dry out to such an extent as to be worthless too for it seems that the journey is between five and seven weeks from here to America. These are very difficult problems. How did other explorers in China get their material over? If I hadn't been in such a hurry when in Washington, I should have investigated all such things.

The account of December and of this month I am not going to send as yet. If the things come back after I have left, perhaps

it will give us more trouble yet. I think I had better keep them until I hear from you.

Herewith I send you 104 photographs with accompanying notes. It is rather hard for me to put any new things on these notes as I put the most important items down on these larger notes. If I have to give more descriptions about things, please mention it. In another envelope I send you also the twelve signed account current sheets.

With best regards and with hopes that things turn out in a good way, I am

Respectfully yours,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Peking. January 29, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Today I was called at the Legation on account of a telegram they had from Tokyo saying that there was no objection to me travelling through Manchuria when I was supplied with the proper papers and presented myself to the Commanding General in Kwantung. So, if I am still here in spring, that is, in China, and matters can be so arranged as to facilitate financial affairs, then I wish you would let me know at your earliest opportunity to proceed to Manchuria. I think you had better wire me, for otherwise it will be in the latter part of April before I receive an answer.

I also wish to express my thanks to Minister Rockhill and to the 1st Secretary of the Legation, Mr. J. C. Coolidge, for the assistance they gave me in regard to obtaining this permission.

I suppose I will be in or around Shanghai when you receive this note, so my official address will be then c/o the American Consul. I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Feb. 7, 1906.

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Your welcome letter of the 28th of Dec. 1905, reached me Jan. 28th, and the material referred to came to hand yesterday. We could see no difference in packages 70c and 70b, both appeared equally dry. They have been cared for in the greenhouse and I am hopeful that they will soon show signs of life. If this grass actually has the advantages you claim for it, your estimate of the value is none too high. I certainly hope you are correct in your observations concerning it. I sometimes envy you, in connection with being in a position to get your hands upon such valuable material.

Some of the cuttings of #67 were dead, quite a number appeared o.k. some of them were pushing, we grafted some of them upon some wild stock and placed some in sand in the greenhouse.

The cuttings of #66, appeared in good condition. The platinum label however was in such a condition as to be unintel-

ligible; those on the other packages were by no means perfect, but could be read. I am sending these labels to Mr. Fairchild to be forwarded later to you. I do not think it is safe to use these labels. Cuttings #64 and 65 arrived quite damp, many of them being covered with black mould, however, they appeared in good condition.

Cuttings #59, and 60, were quite dry, the bark, however, was bright and nice and they appeared o.k. but possibly not quite as fresh as #64 and 65. These have all been heeled in sand to be grafted and rooted later in the season.

The material referred to in one of your previous letters as coming by freight via Seattle has not yet arrived.

We are having beautiful weather and are rushed with our spring planting.

I hope you had a nice trip to the interior. All join me in kindest regards.

Very truly yours,

P. H. Dorsett,
In Charge.

Shanghai. Feb. 16, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Several days have passed again since I set foot ashore here in Shanghai.

I will try to give you an oversight of what I have been doing these last weeks.

I received three letters from you dated December 27, January 5 and January 16. After I have described the past events, I will answer them in detail.

Well, I left Peking February 1st at 7 a.m. by railway for Hankow on the Yang-tse. It was a very cold day and the snow was on most places one foot high. We rode through a plain with high mountains on our left hand side and as the sun rose it got to be a little more comfortable as it was in the early morning. After a number of stops at dreary looking villages and towns, we stopped for the night in Shunte fou. I had a look in the Inn but it was so cheerless there that I returned to the car again where I spent a cold night. I say cold because these cars are not heated, neither do they have sleeping accomodations or have even a dining car. Everybody carries his own bedding and his own provisions with him.

The second day was even colder than the preceding one and I had to put my sheepskin over my winter coat in order to keep warm. After two in the afternoon we went through some hilly country and it got somewhat warmer but still travelling by rail in China is not exactly to be recommended to delicate people, at least not in winter time. Between four and five p.m. we crossed the bridge across the Yellow River. This bridge has been opened to traffic only a few weeks ago but the structure doesn't seem to be as strong as it might have been and they were constructing willow wickerwork around the pillars to protect them against damages from heavy floods. We passed some orchards of Chinese dates, persimmons and apricots, but otherwise little of interest was to be seen. At 6 we stopped again for the night and I passed unfrozen through another night.

On the 3rd of February we began to enter milder regions and it was a relief to the eye to see big dark green clumps of hardy

bamboo around the mud houses and the farther south we went the more prevalent they became. Well, I suppose the locomotive had become overworked by this three days of service for although we had started that day at 9 a.m. we made a halt for the night at a little after 3 p.m. I had been told by the Chinese that there was a foreign bed in the inn in this town, whose name is Chu Ma Tsien. Well, I told the porter of that inn to leave my bedding in the car as I didn't need it this time. Yes, he said, you need it; well, as I have gotten used here to so much lying, I thought the foreign bed story was a fake so I proceeded on and by entering the inn I was shown with an exhibition of pride the so-called foreign bed which proved to be a dirty spring mattress in an iron bedstead; but blankets, sheets, pillows had gone long since. Still, as I had these things with me, it was not so bad after all.

On the fourth day we left before sunrise and now we experienced a great change in temperature. It seemed that with every mile we proceeded farther south the temperature also increased. The bamboo groves became very numerous and they grew also much taller. New shade trees are seen here and there; on the terraced ricefields, a brassica is in full bloom, and wheat is several inches high and looks vivid green. Broad beans (Vicia faba) are on some places one foot high and very much stood out. I understand that these beans are sown in early winter and pass through that season unharmed and produce very early crops. (Couldn't we do a similar thing in the Southern States?)

Now all these crops grow on the higher fields; the lowest

ones are too wet and too cold to produce anything in wintertime, but in summer every available inch is occupied with rice.

At the stations whole swarms of beggars pester the travellers and wail like wild animals. A man can hardly look in any direction or he is confronted with some of these parasites.

To show the mildness of the climate, I may mention that boys and men are selling water chestnuts and a smallsugar cane (Saccharum Narenga) to the travellers. It seems that they store that sugar cane in cool cellars for there is not a stalk to be seen in the fields.

In the evening of the fourth day we arrived in Hankow and I am not a bit sorry that I leave the train. I see here for the first time the royal Yang-tse River. My, what a splendid body of water this is. Its future possibilities as a medium of trade are staggering to a newcomer.

In the evening I had a look into the native town and got into some trouble, but by a diplomatic act I got out unharmed. This is the way it happened. I had walked about half an hour, far in the native town, following the main street which got narrower and narrower, the farther I proceeded. Well, I knew I was followed by some rowdies but I didn't pay any attention to them, until I returned, then they jumped me with their fists in the back, and a few put their hands in my coat pockets and they put up a terrible howl which drew at once all the people around me, the merchants came out of their stores and apparently liked this way of doing, for they all joined in the howling and sneering. Well, I knew if I became

angry, I would have been a lost man. That is, they would have robbed me of everything and probably been beaten too, if not worse, so I just did as if I took their howling for an ovation, and took my hat off and bowed in all directions and smiled like a president on his inauguration trip. At the same time, though, I took the greatest haste in marching on, and after a few trying minutes I got rid of the mob and didn't stop until I was safely in the foreign quarter. The next day I talked to Mr. Martin, the U. S. Consul, about it. Well, he said it isn't safe exactly to go at night in the native city and especially not now, on account of anti-foreign feelings, and also because only a few days ago the servants of a foreigner killed a Chinaman in a gambling house, and the body was still in the street and the Chinese were rather angry at this act.

Well, these little incidents add a little zest to travel in this uncongenial land.

My first day in Hankow I utilized in calling upon Mr. W. Martin, our Consul, who gave me some addresses of people who could give me information about the flora and products in and around Hankow, and so I came to see Mr. Everhall of the Standard Oil Company who showed me a batch of young wood oil trees which he had raised from seeds and he offered me his assistance in obtaining seeds when I go up the Yang-tse where these trees are plentiful. He also loaned me a copy of Mr. A. Hosie's report on the natural products of the province of Tse-Chuan. A very able report which, if you haven't it as yet, is most certainly well worth getting. I read it all through and learned quite a few things from it.

It is a British Consular report dated 1904.

Another report also of Mr. A. Hosie is called "Journey to the Eastern Frontier of Thibet, 1905." This one is from a botanical point of view, far less interesting, but he makes mention of a plant he met which is burned for fuel and which is sticky like India rubber and smells like gutta-percha when burning. He doesn't know the botanical name. What may that be? If it contains gutta-percha in sufficient quantities, it might be worth cultivating in the arid West. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if it weren't some kind of an Asclepias. The Thibetian name is Sa Tung Chu.

In another report, this one called "Imperial Maritime Customs. Decennial reports, 1892-1901. Vol. 1, Northern and Yang-tse ports," there is a short review from the hand of Mr. Wilson of the plants and trees that occur in the Tchang region. This list is well worth copying for the Department's use, and if you have it typewritten, I would be pleased to get a copy of it.

Another gentleman I met in Hankow is Mr. T. J. Brown with whom I went around for two days seeing different gardens and a few nurseries. Mr. Brown gave me some seeds of a good Canton cabbage and of a vine bearing nice edible fruits. This one seems to be an Actinidia according to his description. He got the seeds from Tchang. There is almost nothing here in Hankow which is worth introducing. It is all well known stuff. One tree, though, may be of use for the South as a lesser known shade tree and that is Pterocarya stenoptera. They have this tree here planted along the boulevard along the Yangtse and it does well, growing not too large, yet making enough stem to admit freedom

of passage underneath. The most common evergreen is Ligustrum lucidum, then follows the Loquat and in the smaller shrubs we find Nandina domestica, Gardenia florida, Aucuba japonica, etc. In conifers I saw some nice specimens of Gingko biloba, Cupressus funebris, and a few Cunninghamia sinensis. But as a whole the flora is pretty poor.

I obtained some cuttings of a grape vine said to be introduced here by the Italian missionaries. If so, it will be interesting to see how this one will do in the southern states for the vinifera types do not do well there, isn't it?

On the evening of February 7 I got aboard the steamer and after three nights and three days on the river I landed in Shanghai. We had an uneventful trip. I was here just as in the train the only white passenger, but than Heavens, the officers were all good, old white men, so we had many a talk. The river is grand all over, but in this season everything looks dreary and as all over China the hills and mountains are pretty well denuded of tree growth. Still there were a few hills to be seen densely covered with shrubbery. Our stops at different points were too short to allow me to get off the boat and the last day was so rough that a man couldn't stay much on the deck. A strong gale there blew and plenty of wet snow besides and we are having this kind of weather now already for this whole week; rain and wind and wet snow interchange one another.

Yesterday and the day before yesterday I have been out in the country with Dr. Farnham and I got budsticks of different

varieties of peaches, some scions of persimmons and of apricots. Whether they are something new is very doubtful and as the Chinese here lie still more than they do farther north, I am very skeptical about distinct varieties. Just to show you how little one can trust them, I may mention this case. We were in an orchard in the outskirts of Shanghai where there were two varieties of peaches, peento ones and a whitish, large one. Well, theowner didn't like it a bit to have some small branches cut off, loss of fruit he said, so when I wanted some more peen-to ones he showed us with great pleasure a large tree of very vigorous growth which I recognized at once as a seedling. No, he said this is a large peen-to peach. Well, I picked a kernel up underneath this tree which was not a peen-to kernel. Oh, he said, the boys threw it there, but when I picked up 24 more of them and went straight to this peen-to trees which I had recognized by having observed on them a few dried up flat peaches, well, then he had to give in and found out that he couldn't beat this foreign devil. But of course to me these things do not tend to inspire with much confidence in Chinese statements.

These scions I will send this time in tin cans to see if they arrive in better shape, but whether they will do I am not so sure. Five weeks is a long time for a cutting to be without moisture.

I will also send you a box with seeds shortly. I expected to take it with me personally, but as I didn't get a letter as yet calling me back I had better send it.

After I finished packing in and writing, I am going out in the country about 150 miles S. W. from here in the region where Dr. Farnham sent the seeds from. He told me there is a blood-redpeach there but he doesn't know where it grows exactly. He also thinks there are trees there which may be unknown to us. Now you see, Dr. Farnham is not a botanist at all and by being out here a long time and being very old he doesn't know what trees we have in the U. S. but still there may be some new things there.

I have some difficulty in trying to get a guide and to get proper maps of that region. Still, I bought me a few fairly good maps, but the trouble is that the mountains there haven't been surveyed as yet. I have met Mr. MacGregor a coupld of times and we were glad to exchange thoughts again. He gave me some seeds of Sapium sobiferum, the tallow tree of which I had asked him to save me some.

Yes, now, I 'll come to the more difficult part, the answering of the letters.

In the one dated December 27 you say that nothing has been heard as yet from the boxes with seeds I sent but in your last letter (January 5) I see that the numbers 11a and 13 have arrived. Well, these were in the first box, but there were ten more numbers beside these two. Didn't these arrive, too? I sent them addressed to Washington, D. C., care of the U. S. Quartermaster, Seattle, through the China Forwarding and Express Company. I will refrain as yet from getting in correspondence

with the different parties for I have a feeling that the things have arrived in good shape by this time.

Yes, about the wrapping up. It seems that that isn't always satisfactory. I will try whether tin cases without sphagnum will do. In your last letter you didn't mention whether the last parcels arrived in better shape. Yes, I sent off some things part to Chico, to Washington and to Boston and gave them different numbers, but referred on the carbon sheets to numbers sent. As you see from my last shipments I didn't send anything more to the Arnold Arboretum because I got a feeling that it wasn't quite agreeable to the Department people.

That the tags are bad I knew but as a precaution I gave them a light coating with vaseline and put the number on the shipping tag as well as on the right hand upper corner of each parcel, so even if the tag got off it could never come off from the parcel itself but you say the humic acid still acted on the metal tags. Please send me a few so I can see them.

About those Chinese names, well, that is an extremely difficult matter. In the future I'll try to give the Chinese name when possible but the characters - that will be very often utterly impossible. You must know, n.l., that the common class of Chinese can neither read nor write, notwithstanding the belief which prevails in

Western countries that every Chinaman is able to read and to write. And as I deal mostly with the humbler classes, I will have a pretty hard job in getting these things. Then you speak of photographing a character. Did you ever try to imitate a difficult Chinese character, Mr. Fairchild? Do you know that a slight variation changes often the entire meaning? If I am going to stay long in this country I'll be obliged to buy different kinds of dictionaries for the different dialects but as yet I haven't done it. I have baggage enough most of the time and books are heavy and rather expensive too.

About the money matters, well, that is the worst of this whole business. I had a talk with Mr. Rodgers, the Consul-general down here, and he told me that his compradore would assist me in changing these dollars into taels, etc. etc. I'll wait now till my first accounts come back, then we do the whole d---thing at once. Do you have some account sheets on the road to me? Otherwise, I am left out in the cold anyway.

Suppose now, everything can't be settled, do you think I'll have to pay out of my own pocket? Or rather the Loan Company will have to pay and I them again. Well, I haven't got it, so if such a thing might occur, I would like to know it beforehand. You see, I have been offered more or less a good position here in China and although I do not fancy this country, I would accept it to save some money to pay such debts off as I might incur with this exploring business and then I would return again to America

as a free man.

I see some scions got mixed up because there were two different kinds in one package. Well, that is strange. I suppose the numbers on the labels got eroded. Yes, in the future I'll send only one kind in one package. Now we come to your letter of January 5th. I see my two letters of October 30 and November 28 arrived on the same day. That is funny. They must have been delayed for that first one has been two months on the road. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if some of my letters hadn't become lost and also that I failed to receive some of the mail addressed to me. I have already several indications of that.

You speak about sending seeds by sample post in tin cans, but you see then they must be made so that they can be inspected by the postal authorities and then can steal them for these Chinese here are not too honest. Mr. MacGregor just told me yesterday that the postal service has suffered a good deal from thievery among the employees.

About these vegetable seeds, yes, if Mr. Tracy can handle them, all right. I have seen very little when I was in Washington of these trial gardens so I thought that the Potomac flats were the only ones we had and I know that not all things could do well there. You write about the tubers. Well, they have quite a few for sale here in the markets. I do not know as yet whether

they grow here, but I am looking into this matter. As you know, you can buy most of these tubers in Chinatown in San Francisco and some kinds also in Chinatown in New York City and in New Orleans and as for water chestnuts you can get them even in Washington in one or two of the Chinese stores at the foot of Pennsylvania Avenue. So what shall I do about these things? Look only into the cultural side or also send the things?

About entirely new crops which may be of use to us, yes, there are a few things, but do we care for them? Now take, for instance, the lotus Nelumbium peciosum. This plant is useful here in many ways. The Rhizomes are eaten raw, boiled, pickled and preserved in sugar. The seeds are boiled and then coated with sugar and are very nice as such. The green leaves are harvested, dried, and are universally used as wrapping material for meats, fish, fruits, etc., and they are as such very suitable material, being supple and yet rather strong. These lotuses surely could be grown down south in swampy regions.

Then, the bamboo shoots. Just now one finds splendid young shoots in the market, but do the Americans care for this vegetable?

Among the preserved fruits one finds a few items of interest. They have pickled green apricots here which after they have been in brine for a long time are taken out and put in a syruppy liquid, they

retain their nice green color and are really a nice relish. I think we would like them too.

Is the Canarium album and Canarium pimelia introduced in America? These are what we call Chinese olives. They are eaten fresh, salt-pickled, preserved in sugar and dry. As a preserve in sugar they are very nice and surely do not have to be lower ranked than candied citron rind.

A material which we might use perhaps, too, is the fibre of the fan palm (Trachycarpus excelsa). The Chines make brushes from it, nice floor mats, raincoats for the poor people and use it as packing material.

Do you know that the young alfalfa is used as human food. I haven't eaten it as yet, but as soon as I have a change I'll try it. That water chestnut might be useful to us as a winter substitute for green corn. Mrs. Williams served it to us at Christmas dinner and the looks, taste, and smell were those of green corn. It was grated, of course, so that made it still more deceptive.

I see extraordinarily large tangerines in the market. Some are as large as our navel oranges. I learned that they come from the Foochow Islands. Then we get pomelas here which are served in sections. In other words, one can peel them and separate them like tangerines and they are neither bitter nor sour. I haven't seen as yet this kind in the States.

You ask whether I received the letter of December 27. Yes, As I have already written.

I inquired at the Consul's the other day about Dr. Barchet's

arrival. He is expected to land in Shanghai March 5 so maybe I'll see him.

About that pear blight in China. Yes, it exists in Chefoo on the foreign pears there and I also saw a disease looking very much like it on a wild pear in the grounds of the temple of Heaven, Peking. I dried a few twigs of it which I'll send you. Then Mr. Waite may see whether it is blight or not.

They have two funny diseases here which I have never seen anywhere else as yet and these are a witch-broom disease in the wild as well as in the cultivated Jujube trees (Zizyphus vulgaris) and a witch-broom-like disease in the apricot trees.

The peach trees around Shanghai are badly attacked by gum disease and have also scales on them and most of the trees seen around here are more or less infested by scales.

About the carbon notes, I marked them 104 and 105 because there were two parcels of them and each had to have a lable, but they are the same kind. I put I and II on the pages so as to show that the one was a continuation from the other, there being too much writing for one page. I invariably put down at the bottom of the page where I sent the material to, this time it was Washington, D. C., on other pages you may see Chico, or Arnold Arboretum. I'll look over my notes and write down a few explanations for some numbers.

28 and 29 -- the same

67 and 68 -- the same

71 and 90 -- the same

72 and 89 -- the same

87 and 88 -- the same

104 and 105 -- the same

102, 106 and 107 -- the same

109 and 120 -- the same

121, 122, 123, 124 -- the same.

The next time I send things I'll explain a few more things if they look complicated.

Now, your last letter of January 16. I am very sorry for Mr. Dewey about the hemp, but you can't expect me to send seeds when I don't come across them. The only instance I saw genuine hemp was one row of straggling plants along a ditch near Peking and otherwise I have never seen the plants or the seeds as yet. Now, about that hemp seed which was sent through missionaries to Kentucky; could you perhaps find out from what part of China that comes? China is such an enormous country and I have seen nothing, so to speak, of it; I was told that the best hemp grows in Manchuria. Perhaps these seeds came from there.

Then, I got a funny letter from Mr. A. Zappone about to furnish him copies of all decisions of the Comptroller of the Treasury that I have received while acting as temporary special disbursing agent. Well, I never got any decisions as yet, so I can't supply that gentleman with any. Or do they mean, perhaps, a thing like this money business now in which all amounts have to be made out in native currency, but still this is a decision of the Comptroller of the Currency, as you wrote me. And I suppose these two gentlemen are different persons, aren't they?

I received a letter from Mr. Dorsett telling me that Mr. Pieters had told him that he would write me to ship all material to Chico. Then Mr. Dorsett could reship what was not for him.

Has that been decided as yet?

You say you and Mrs. Fairchild have a place outside of Washington. Outside the District line? If you plant cherries as a spring delight, do not fail to plant Japanese maples for fall effects. I hope to see it some of these days.

Well, I see I got my 45th page. You may say perhaps, "Couldn't you condense it somewhat?". Well, the next time I will.

With best of regards to all, I am,

Respectfully yours,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

Febr. 20 '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Your letters of Dec. 20th and 29th at hand. Of those of the 20th I got 2 copies, but the one was franked and the other not, so I had to pay 30 cts. Mex. for package.

Well, to answer the first one, first. I am exceedingly sorry that some of these cuttings arrived in bad shape; I thought I did as good as I could, the more as I had carried some cuttings packed in, in exactly the same way in my baggage for quite awhile to see whether they could stand it and I must say when I unpacked them they were as fresh as ever, but I had kept them cool and I suppose some of the packages were put near boilers or stoves and got suffocated.

You say cuttings of olives and pomegranates shipped by Mr.

Kearny from Tunis reached you in good shape, but compare the distances with one another, Mr. Dorsett. From Tunis to California is 14 days, while mine shipments are often 6-8 weeks on the road.

Still this time I'll send you the things, except three packages, all packed in tin cases and coated with parafine to see if they arrive better, for there isn't one more interested in the well-being of these things as I am myself.

You say in your letter of December 29th, that Mr. Pieters would write me to ship all things to you. Well, that will relieve me of a good deal of work, but you get it then there, for there are quite a few thingswhich are not intended for Pacific Coast work.

I do not think I send you any of the large seedless persimmons, did I. Well, I hope they send you some from Washington.

Why do you think I failed to get some of your letters? Letters take sometimes a long time in this country to reach a man. About No. 102. I may say that if I wrote you, that I sent it to you, I simply made a mistake for that number was for Washington. You see I had a whole lot of this var. of grape, so I send 102 to the Dept. in Wash., 106 to the Arnold Arboretum in Boston and 107 to you and I see you got it too.

I am sending you now 1 box of seeds but there are only a few things in which are intended for you. All these cereals and samples of basketry, rake, etc. are really for Wash., D. C. but I leave it over to your discretion what to send. Those papershell and softshell walnuts are for your garden. Be good to that papershell, for it is the only large one I was able to lay hands on and the

owner wasn't even willing, notwithstanding I offered him much money, to show me the tree.

You see, you have also the wild persimmon among them, you may keep them all. Wash. got enough already. I think you better keep the Pistacia sinensis seeds; do you know that I measured one specimen of this tree that had a trunk more than 15 ft. in circumference? It was a male tree tho. The females don't seem to grow that large.

The seeds of 173a, a small quince, you better keep. I wasn't able as yet to find the bushes where they grow on. No. 194 I recommend to you especially. May be tho it is the same thing which you showed me in your lath house, climbing toward the sky.

About the parcels I am sending you now, I may say this: do not take too much trouble with them for the natives are here (Shanghai) are very much given over to lying and as I am in the wrong season, I am not at all sure that I obtained very valuable things. It may be that most of these peaches are known already to Americans, for there have been explorers here who have sent some of them home. Well, do what you think best to them.

I enclose all the notes within this letter. Please send the notes to Wash. which you don't keep with your selection.

I ship the box addressed care Dr. G. S. Baker, 6th & Townsends St., S. Francisco, with the S.S. Coptic, expected in San Francisco March 20, '06 and I suppose that most of the parcels will go the same way.

Just now we have an awful rainy time here; since these last 10 days the sun hasn't been seen as yet and the rain pours down every so many hours, sometimes it changes into wet snow and a man doesn't

feel like exploring in this weather.

Still I hope to go out next week to explore the mountain wildernisses 150 miles S.W. from here, where it is reported strange trees exist. Let me see!

Did the lost parcels arrive in better shape as the preceding ones: I got some complaints from Wash. that some of my labels were badly erased, you got that too? Well, I always put the number not only on the tag but also on the right hand upper corner of the parcel too, so it is hardly possible that any evil could result even if a number got erased, and I gave all the labels a rubbing with vaseline, so as to prevent any action of acid or whatever it may be.

Well, goodbye Mr. Dorsett, with best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. I forgot to mention that I packed No. 116 entirely dry, but the others I wrapped in nearly dry sphagnum for I had observed that a 4 days stay in oil paper alone in a tin case had shriveled them up badly. I also used parafine wax instead of collodion, not that I think collodion does do any harm but still, we'll try to do the best we can.

This dried specimen is a sweet potato in bloom, so you see we got even things here which you people haven't got and as you always wanted to see one in bloom, I think it may be of interest to you. I enclose bill of lading but you needn't bother about it. It is only a matter of safety, i.e. if the box doesn't appear within a reasonable time, then you have something to substantiate your claims.

Shanghai, China,
February 22, 1906.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

Your letter of January 16 was received by me yesterday. It

worked quieting upon me, notwithstanding it touched these miserable money subjects.

Yes, I'll try to give you as accurate a statement as possible. The ciphers are all in Gold.

My Railroad and Steamship tickets from Washington, D. C. to Shanghai were together $302.00

The bill for expenses during the period from July 27 until September was	268.90
from October 1 to October 31 incl.	246.65
from November 1 to November 30 incl.	240.50
from December 1 to December 31, incl. about	150.00
from January 1 to January 31, incl., about	165.00
from February 1 to February 28, incl., about	260.00
From July 27 until February 28, incl.	$1532.05

So that seems to be about $220.00 per month, but suppose we say $250.00. That will be for the remaining four months $1000.00 and then my salary for one year (I was appointed July 10, 1905) is another $1000.00. So if I am not going to be sent out on very expensive trips, then I think that $3500 will clear me through. If, however, I make an ocean trip of long endurance, then it will be somewhat more. Well, I hope you will be satisfied with this statement. It leaves you about $1500 to use somewhere else.

I think I am doing the things rather economically down here. I wonder how much it cost others to do this work. Mr. McGregor told me that Wilson, the English explorer, spent 25,000 Lbs. in a period from six to seven years. That is something like $20,000 per year, but of course he went way inland and sometimes 50 coolies in employ and I know myself that servants cost money. Not in actual wages, no, the "squeeze" as we call it here. That is, they charge us far more for articles than they are worth and it is very hard to remedy this evil because it is universally done all over China.

You think I have done rather well, isn't it? Well, this is a most difficult country to do things well and I have tried to do as good as I could, but now I begin to feel tired. These financial matters, expecially, worry me. The last vouchers and accounts had two slips with them upon which the auditor had made different criticisms. For instance, I had bought seeds from different people to the amount of $1.40 Now I must get a subvoucher or waive it.

He also remarks that soda water and mineral waters are not proper purchases for reimbursement, but do people know that it is very hard sometimes to get something to drink in this country? And if one drinks, one has to be careful. I have had quite some bowel trouble already. Even in the European hotels the water is far from pure. I wish some people could just come over and see how miserably one lives even in a large hotel.

Then, I had sometimes boys and men employed in collecting seeds for me to the amounts of 20 or 30 cents apiece. Well, this is called personal service and I must get subvouchers for it.

You say near the end of your letter that I will continue to send in my accounts at the interval of a month. Well, of late I haven't done so. I'll wait till the last one comes back and then I'll have the vouchers changed into the currency of the country and make the whole thing up at once.

If an explorer goes out the next time, it would be a wise thing not to hurry him so much but on the contrary to give him a thorough instruction and save him and his superiors plenty of worry!!!

I didn't answer you as yet on your first letter, December 2nd, 1905. Well, I was glad you got that letter and also saw that to Dr. Smith. If you make extracts from my letters, please send me copy of a paper so I may see how it looks.

You spoke about sending pruning scissors and pruning knives.

Yes, if you could do that, it would be very nice. My own pruning knife broke, so I wouldn't mind it a bit to get another one. And if I am going to be left here, I am getting sorely in need of account sheets, envelopes and paper. I mean official paper. I wrote to Mr. Fairchild already so maybe a box is on the road to me.

A few days ago while opening one of my boxes I found out that I had been robbed of a good suit of clothes, hat and shoes inclusive, and they also stole some paper and envelopes with it. It happened either in the baggage car while going from Peking to Hankow or otherwise on the boat from Hankow to Shanghai. What can a man do against such a thing?

I got a telegram a few days ago from the Secretary, Mr. Wilson, to proceed to Nagasaki, if I consider it advisable. Well, really, there doesn't seem to be any danger in remaining here. It is true the air is full of uncertainty, but there are twelve foreign warships in the harbor and many more along the coast and we do not expect a general uprising. The last time 100 rowdies were killed here by the foreigners and they got a pretty good lesson. Whenever I come in contact with Chinese I tell them to be very quiet with the foreigners for the next time they would smash China and many of them know it, too, but they are too conceited to admit it.

As soon as the weather clears up I'll go out in the country, for I have heard from different people that there are strange trees in the mountains southwest of here.

I am sending Mr. Dorsett one box of seeds and several parcels with cuttings. Did the others arrive in good shape.

While I write the rain pours down in sheets and everything

smells moist. We haven't seen the sun as yet for these last ten days. May it soon clear.

Well, Mr. Pieters, I hope you receive this message in the best of health. With best regards also to Mrs. Pieters and those who remember me yet, I am

Yours respedtfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China.

February 22, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Today I shipped a box with seeds to the U. S. Plant Introduction Garden, Chico, California. Most of the things in it are for other parts of the U. S. and not for California, but as Mr. Dorsett wrote me, he would reship things that were not for him. There are not over-valuable things in. You already have some of most of them. The box is shipped through the agents of P. & O. S. S. Company and goes with the S. S. Coptic which will arrive in San Francisco about March 20. To get the box through I had to go through a whole lot of trouble. To the shipping people I had to go a couple of times, to the doctor to have him pass it, to the customs house to declare it of no value, then to the lighter and tug office and perhaps I am not through yet, for the steamer leaves the day after tomorrow.

I had a talk with the doctor about shipping bulbs, etc. Well, he said nothing that has earth around it or that has been in the ground can be shipped from here to the U. S. unless it has been

dipped in formaline. Well, as that will kill most things, I asked him if there was not another way. Yes, he said, if you can get a special permit from the Marine Health Department in Washington, D.C., then I can let them pass. Now, if I am going to stay here, could you perhaps get such a special permit for me; that would ensure us a far greater success in shipping live material, as to have things disinfected.

I am sending Mr. Dorsett also budsticks of different varieties of peaches collected around here. It isn't very sure whether there are valuable things among them for I wasn't able to see if any fruits and the natives around here are very much given over to lying, so we can only try and see if there is something among them.

This time I packed all the cuttings (except three kinds) in tin cases with almost dry sphagnum around them and we'll see if they arrive better. I didn't dare to omit sphagnum for I had tried to wrap some cuttings up only in oil paper in a tin case and after four days they were already remarkably dry and shriveled and would never have stood it for another week, not to speak of four or five weeks. This oil paper we got here is not air or moist proof, so I have to use moss around them. I also used parafine wax instead of Collodian as Mr. Dorsett had written me that it seemed as if it had had a bad effect upon the ends of the cuttings. I can't believe that Collodian would be bad, but still, we'll try until we find out the best way.

I received your letters of January 16 and 18 together with the vouchers. Yes, I'll try to make the necessary changes.

I also received a telegram from the Secretary, Mr. Wilson, to proceed to Nagasaki, if I thought it advisable, to investigate the rushes and matting in Japan. Well, it isn't so dangerous here as the telegrams have made it. We have plenty of foreign warships around here and the Chinese know it, too. We'll wait in going into the interior for a couple of days yet. Firstly, on account of the very bad weather we experience of late, nothing but rain and rain, no sun to be seen for more than ten days, and secondly, I will wait until after February 25 because a general massacre of foreigners has been predicted and if the Chinese would be silly enough to start some rioting, then it is always safer to be under protection of foreign troops than to be alone in the country.

After I come back from the interior perhaps after two weeks or so, I may proceed to Nagasaki, for by that time the letter giving instructions will have arrived there.

I am sending you some dried specimens of some interesting plant diseases I came across. I suppose you will know better than I to whom to give them.

When I have been sending scions of different things I was always careful not to take them from diseased orchards or trees so I hope I am not introducing any bacterial diseases;for scales, etc., you always fumigate the things, don't you?

Well, with best of regards also to Mrs. Fairchild and others who know me, I am

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Notes in regard to the following Plant Diseases observed in China.

Pear Blight.

When in Chefoo, September 9, 1905, many of the pear trees had unmistakably severe attacks of blight; some branches were entirely dead, others the tops were black and here and there a whole tree had died. These trees were either imported from America or were grafted from the imported stock.

One pear tree, growing wild in the grounds of the Temple of Heaven, in Peking, had apparently also blight; the top ends of many branches died back and blackish lines running through some leaves as if bacterial decomposing was setting in. A few of these branches collected and herewith send. On some of the leaf tops a fungus had made some destruction and from such a beginning often a whole leaf turned black. This particular pear tree was the common wild Chinese pear and was a rather old specimen (30 to 50 years old) (Pyrus betulaefolia).

Witch-broom-like disease in Apricots.

Apparently caused by action of some very diminutive animal parasite, preventing the young leaves and branches from growing out. I was too late to see any animal like creatures, most of the trees shedding their leaves already, but these dwarfed branches kept their leaves on, notwithstanding they had turned dark brown and a tree with the naked healthy branches but interspaced with these bunches of dead brown leaves gave the impression of a witch-broom.

In some localities the trees were badly attacked and had produced little fruit, old trees especially were heavily attacked.

It also seemed as if the one variety was far more resistant than the other to its ravages.

Witch-broom-like disease in the Chinese date.

This is quite a different disease as the preceding one. Instead of turning brown at the close of the season, the branches keep on growing and form leaves that are much lighter green than the normal ones and much smaller and appear in tufts; they also appear in out of the way places, like on the old trunk or at the base of the stem and make a tree look rather curious. A tree heavily attacked bears no fruit whatever, but mostly one part of a tree is attached, while another part seems to be in good health. This disease occurs also on the wild Jujube but as yet I saw only two cases of it, notwithstanding the millions of bushes of wild ones I saw.

F.N.M.

Shanghai, China,

March 10, '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Herewith I send you 6 parcels.

No. 517 - A seedless persimmon (medium size).

" 518 - A wild " (on which the above is grafted).

" 519 - A small fruited red cherry.

" 140 - A red mulberry, 520 - A white mulberry used both for silkworm foods. Try to graft 1/2 of each lot.

No. 141 - A creeping Euonymus.

" 142 - An erect Euonymus.

" 143 - An evergreen Eleagnus.

" 144 - A small hard plum.

" 145 - Liquidambar chinense.

" 146 - Probably a Sarsaparilla.

" 147 - A shrub.

" 148 - A Daphne.

Try to slip these all except 144. In an awful hurry, the mail leaves within a few minutes. Later on detailed descriptions.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK N. MEYER

Shanghai,

March 12, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

A few days have passed again since I returned from the mountains southwest of here. My trip wasn't as successful as I wish it had been. The season, n. l. is a little unfavorable just now. We have had an excessive rainfall for a few weeks and when I was out in the country many roads were two feet below the surface of the water and in the higher altitudes there was so much snow that one couldn't go there. I was in the country around Hanchan most of the time and even in these low lands the snow was still lay-

ing on shady places. The Loquats and oranges had suffered severely from the extraordinary heavy snowfall and many trees were completely ruined. For instance, large branches had been broken off and some of the bamboo groves were also in a sorry state of affairs as many of the fine big stems were broken down by the snow. As these large stalks are worth from one to two Mexican dollars apiece, you may imagine what a loss the Chinese suffered, for one Mexican dollar here is for a Chinaman pretty nearly as much as five dollars in gold is to us.

I obtained some scions of what appears to be a different variety of large, seedless persimmon. Also some scions of the wild one upon which they graft the large one. This wild one has a gray-white stem with hardly any bark, so it looks rather curious to see the sharp line between scion and stock. I took some good photos of it which I will send up shortly.

Another thing which exists here and that is a white loquat. But it is exceedingly rare. They told me there are two worthless varieties of it and one a very good one. And the Chinese are not willing to part with the trees. The missionary himself, who is Mr. Alexander Kennedy, Tank-hsi, near Hanchan, made me acquainted first with the fact and who has been living seven years here did not get the right variety, though they promised him to do so and the Commissioner of Customs at Hanchan (Mr. Von Tana) has been trying in vain for a couple of years to get a plant of it. Now these fruits ripen here in about early June, they tell me, so the only time to get the right kind is to find out the trees, buy some scions and graft them, oneself. I told Mr. Kennedy to buy me at least lo

plants grown in pots of the true white one. That is, if he can get them; price is no objection, as long as it is not too much. So even if I am not here myself I am in hopes we will be able to get some.

I also obtained a few lemons from the American Acting-Consul in Hanchan, Mr. F. D. Cloud, and as the lemons spoiled I send you the seeds, packed in a few different ways.

In the garden of Bishop G. E. Moule in Hanchan I saw the trees growing and notwithstanding the heavy snows they get here in winter time (some days ago there fell 11 inches) and also the severe frosts, still these trees do not mind it much, so maybe they will be hardier than anything we have. But now I call them lemons, but in my heart I do not think they are such. I really think they are are a small-fruited pomelo, for the largeness of size, the shape of the seeds, the heavy coarse rind and the very unusual scent of the rind-oil, and last but not least, they come true to seed--these all point to a pomelo. So that seems to prove it is either a species or a constant variety. As the trees grow tall and have many spines they comply with all rules of simply being the wild pomelo.

There are some cherry and plum orchards in these parts of China, but the Europeans consider the fruits as very inferior to anything we have. Still I send a few scions up to Chico, Perhaps they may be used in breeding work.

In wild plants there are some exceedingly beautiful ever-green shade trees in these mountains. I saw large specimens of camphor trees and a large number of live oaks, some with beautiful

dark green foliage, also a large leaved evergreen chestnut. This is a remarkable ornamental tree and I am exceedingly sorry that I could not obtain any fruits or young trees. I wrote Bishop Moule to try to get me some next fall and the Consul too, promised me to collect some if he was still in Hanchan, a thing which was not likely to be, though. There are also some large deciduous trees growing in the mountains, for instance, large Liquidambars, maples, leguminous trees. I collected seeds from different things which I hope to send you shortly.

There are quite a few climbing plants in the woods. The Ficus repens is seen on many places. So are different species of Ivy (Helia) Wistaria sinensis, smilax, evergreen honeysuckle, and a few I don't know as yet.

In the lowlands the people cultivate as winter crops a mustard-like plant for its seeds, out of which a very good oil is made, 2nd, broad beans to be eaten fresh or dried, and 3rd, wheat, but this is a very small item with them because rice is the staple food. They grow all these three crops on ridges and lay the seeds at regular distances by hand. This is done in late fall time and the crops are harvested just before they start planting rice--in May and June.

On the higher laying lands, that is, those a few feet above the water line, there they have their mulberry orchards which they were just pruning while I was there. They cut them back on 5 or 6 eyes of the wood. They have two varieties here. One with a light yellow bark and one with a brown colored bark. The light colored one is best and they graft them upon seedling stock. I sent cuttings

(or scions) from both of them to Chico. I also took a few pictures of some of these mulberry plantations. They look very queer on account of being cut back year after year, for the Chinese cut them back to obtain vigorous shoots with large leaves on them. As a result of this pollarding, though, one finds very few good orchards in which the trees are older than eight or at the utmost ten years, for when a little too old, they haven't the vigor any more to produce a paying crop.

Well, I have alot of your mail now and will answer it. First I will take your letter of February 1, 1906.

Yes, I got the letter of January 5 which was sent to Peking back to here but as I had received the copy of it and answered it, too, I won't touch this one any more.

I am very pleased to find that my work is appreciated by you all, and that your last letters are of a far less brief character. Yes, it may be somewhat childish of me, but we all have our faults, and as you say yourself, that you enjoyed encouraging letters while you were in the field, you being a Nestor in this business, then a novice may surely feel the same, isn't this so?

Yes, that one photo of the mountains near Shan Hai Kwan is really the best of all my scenic pictures. As you have seen already by this time, not all of the photos are howling successes and yet, I did the best I could, but apparently something was wrong sometimes.

I see you wrote that a new stock of stationery is on the way to me. That is good. I hope to get it by next mail. I received a sample of hull-less barley and as the tag bore the postmark of February 2, 1906, I am afraid that the first sample lies peacefully

somewhere in a Chinese post office. I certainly wouldn't have recognized it as Barley. It looks rather like a strange kind of rye. You said in a former letter you had the pleasure of obtaining it for the U. S. Well, had you seen it ever before or did some good friend draw your attention to it?

To show you I am not the only one who had never seen it before, I may mention that I showed it to Dr. Barchet who paid me a visit last night and he wouldn't believe it. But when I told him that I had seen plenty of hairless dogs in Mexico and had even been invited to a dinner where such a dog (in stewed form, of course) was the main dish, then he almost gasped and we both acknowledged that when a hairless dog exists hull-lessbarley isn't any more miraculous.

About the tea seeds, I found out that they ripen in late fall down here and while I was in the country now, I looked underneath many a tea bush only to find that the seeds were all spoiled already, they being too old and on old neglected plantations one found quite a lot of young seedlings which looked as if they had germinated last fall.

And, about the shipping, too. You are quite right. It would be silly to send them by way of Suez as they skim the coast of the hottest countries of the earth. No, when the Trans-Siberian railroad is again in good working order, then it will be only fourteen days from Peking to Paris and from there about eight days to the Eastern U. S. Then, of course, that route is better for quick shipments, but as yet it seems that the direct line from Shanghai to Vancouver or Seattle is the best. I marked nearly all of my

parcels that way but of course, the Chinese do not always pay regard to such things. They cannot comprehend why one would rather wait a week and ship by a Northern Route than to ship immediately and go through milder latitudes. My last box of seeds, though, I shipped by way of the P. Mail Boat, the Coptic, which passes through Honolulu, but the seeds are all dry and the climate in this time of the year is far from warm as yet on nearly the whole voyage. Several travellers assured me of this fact.

Yes, the next time I am again in an occasion like the last time in Pekin, in other words, when I find out that I can't do much useful work on account of climate, I'll do as you say and wire, though wiring is enormously dear here.

About the dry land rice around Shan Hai Kwan and other northern points, you ask me how it is grown. Well, when I came in these regions it was all harvested, but in looking at the stubbles I could see that it was near Shan Hai Kwan sown in drills. That is, I saw a bunch of stubble at regular distances of about 3/4 feet from one another; but in Chang-li it was grown in long rows like wheat.

The rice I was told of by Mr. Williams and Mr. McCormick as growing in Manchuria was a dry land rice. I'll write Mr. Williams, though, and hear more about it. Perhaps he knows an address where it is obtainable, thought that will be a hard job, for out here in China one has to do the collecting on the spot. Otherwise the Chinese send any old thing. Even they cheat old residents who thoroughly understand the language and the customs of them. Take old Dr. Farnham now, for instance, a man who has

been here over forty years and yet, when he bought two years ago some peach trees which were sold to him as large fruited peaches and he paid accordingly, well, when they were planted, not a peach appeared on them, although they had flowered beautifully. Well, they had simply soaked him for a pair of flowering peaches instead of the fruiting ones. So you see how little one can trust their statements.

I see your note about the insect pests which were found upon some cuttings. Yes, whenever I saw things I scraped them off or threw them away, but I do hope that you give them down there always a thorough fumigation for you see, some of these eggs are in crevices in the bark where one could never see them. If I was having a permanent place here to live, I would fumigate them myself but while going around all the time I couldn't carry these dangerous requisites with me. I wrote Mr. Dorsett, too, a long time ago to fumigate all the things I send him. Besides that, I always moisten the sphagnum in which the things are packed with a weak solution of a disinfectant, like creosotin or Lysol, so as to prevent fungus from growing upon the cuttings and I think it won't make life too comfortable for animal parasites, too.

Well, this time I'll finish. With the best regards to all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

March 13, '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Both your letters received 1. i. one dated Jan. 15, and the other one of Jan. 25th.

On the last one your clerk had omitted to put a stamp so I had to pay 20 ct. mex., a good thing it wasn't a heavy letter, otherwise they would have soaked me for much more.

I sent you the other day 6 parcels, containing various cuttings and scions. I am afraid the season gets a little too far advanced, already, to send any more things that way. At least the plum trees here are in full bloom just now and peaches may be seen occasionally too in the same garb of spring.

I put a few little notes on that postal, which I hope you received. I wasn't able to write any more, for having come back the evening previously, it took all my time to pack and ship things. I would have liked to put them all in tin cases, but the Chinaman didn't deliver the things to me, notwithstanding I sent my servant 3 times to him. A man is here often entirely at the mercy of such people and one may kick or even swear, but it is of no avail.

The more valuable things in these parcels are: No. 517, 518, 519, 520, & 140. The other things I haven't been able to see enough of so if they grow, all right, if not, there is little lost. I am here in the wrong season just now and have met as yet few people who could

give me any solid information of the real useful plants of this region. So I have either to come back here in late summer or early fall, or have to leave things as they are. The climate is rather mild here, so most of the plants and trees of this region will be useful only for a limited area of the United States.

Yes, now I'll answer your letters. I see the boxes hadn't arrived as yet. Well, Mr. Fairchild just wrote me a letter, they got notice from Seattle that they had arrived, so I suppose you got things by this time.

I haven't heard as yet from Mr. Pieters in regard to shipments. May it be that it isn't favorably rec'v'd in other quarters? If so, they will jump on me, for I send the last things all to you. Well, never mind, all things are of a passing nature.

You speak about the Yang-taw, well may it be that that small package of seeds is the one which I numbered 194a. I got on the track of Aleurites cordata but they are growing way up the Yangtse river near Ichang. I have been told that they love poor, stony soil and that the trees are rather short-lived. The climate around Ichang is something like the So. Atlantic States. A mild winter with occasional rains and a hot summer with an excessive rainfall. So may be the tree will do well on the bad lands of the South.

I didn't come as yet across any Juncus effusus seed, but I am on the track of a locality where the Chinese assured me it grows and I bought a piece of matting, said to come from there. If possible, I'll go within a few days to that locality.

Juglans cordiformis & J. sieboldiana haven't come under my vision as yet. They probably grow farther north. Juglans manchurica

I met only once in So. Mongolica, but there were only a few poor trees and the nuts had been collected already by those everlasting industrious Chinese. Still I send some seeds to Washington of what I take to be a cross between J. regia var. sinensis x J. manchurica.

I am just back for these last 3 days from a 10 days trip into the interior. There is one think I would have liked to have obtained seeds from and that is of a large leaved evergreen chestnut. A beautiful tree it is. Well, I suppose when I come in Sept. or Oct. I may be able to get some nuts; now there wasn't a single good one to be had.

Well, now a few personal talks and then I'll finish again.

It does do me good that you take your loss so bravely, Mr. Dorsett. It wouldn't be good for you if you let your head go wrong, for you really have your children left, who will always be a precious memory of their mother. How helpful to you that your mother is able yet to assist you again; few of us are in such a condition. Of many of us, our mothers are too far away even to speak by by way of wire.

My thanks also for your best wishes of my success. I try to do it as well as I can and - the rest will take care of itself. I personally think that the money I spend during this exploration trip is not wasted though someone might perhaps have obtained more good out of it, but this country is so difficult that one is glad even if one get only a little something. I enclose in this letter the notes concerning the parcels and also give you these 3 fotos, which you may enjoy perhaps.

With best regards to your friends and associates and with sincere wishes for your further happiness, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China.

March 15, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

A few more days passed and things have taken a different turn again. I received the telegram which was worded "Frank Meyer, go Manchuria April. Get grains. Wilson."

I suppose, however, that other things too are included and that you are not in a hurry for these grains because the new crop isn't ripe as yet and the old seeds have been sown perhaps last fall or will be sown very soon. Still, I will do the best I can.

Among the letters I received from you I saw that you were very anxious to obtain some Opium poppy and some hemp seeds. Well, unfortunately I haven't come across either one of them and yesterday I went with my guide to every shop in Shanghai where they might have things like these, but I didn't obtain a single things. A few promised me to get them for me within some days, but--a Chinaman's promise is something so subtle that I won't gladden my heart with it.

Still, I got some seeds of a hemp, but it is not a Cannabis. I do not know what it is. According to the shape of the seeds and the structure of the fibre, it looks like a Tiliaceous plant. I send you these seeds under No. 210a (18435) and sample of the fibre under No. 208a and 209a. I wonder what it may be. Also I obtained some other samples of what they call hemp but neither one of them looks like the true Cannabis. I send them under No. 205a, 206a, and 207a.

Well, I'll first answer your letters. First, I take the one of January 31, 1906. I am sorry to see that the cuttings keep on arriving in poor shape. You say the poplar and willow cuttings had rootlets one inch and more in length. Well, they must have been kept warm and while some other cuttings arrived dry, these must have been much moister. I wish I could have a look at the things while they are being unpacked. It would teach me more what to do and what not to do than ten letters would tell me.

Did you get the boxes and are you satisfied with the contents? Of course, I don't expect it to be an ideal collection, but I may say that there are mighty few things which escaped me and many are the things which I collected and which were never seen even by very old residents. And then, China is not exactly a paradise for a large variety of things. On the contrary, one is amazed to see how few things they really have.

You say that it will be very important to work up some new industry like matting, bamboo, tea, paper plant, etc., Right you are, sir, but--give me time, please. For a thing like this means a stay of many months in one place. Nay, it may even mean a few years. I am now on the track of a district where fine mats are being made. At least, the samples I saw were pretty nice. I won't mention the name as yet because it may not be that particular place, but if I have the least possibility before going to Manchuria I'll go to it. It seems to be a couple of days from here, but one cannot trust to that on account of the Chinese either not knowing themselves whether these mattings really come from there or that they told me

the wrong place.

About the variety names, yes, I will try as much as possible to obtain them, though what has one name in one district has a totally other name in another district or two things have the same name and are utterly different but when I mention the exact place, it will perhaps be possible to send a perfect Chinese scholar to such a place and find out what the thing really is.

Your letter of February 3 has an item about Peanuts. Well, they grow quite some peanuts around Peking, but they are not so very large. Still, I will send you some samples of them when I am in Peking and I think I will surely see them in Manchuria for the Chinese cultivate them even near Shan Hai Kwan and in the Ming Tombs Valley.

I also see that in the box with stationery some vouchers are put in. I suppose I'll get these things in a few days and then I will fix the whole thing. From that corner (the financial one) I expect many a storm yet to come. Well, let them come. At least, I will get weathered and then they won't disturb my sleep any more.

In your letter you ask me at that time I would be able to get into Manchuria. Well, for so far I have been talking with different kinds of people who had been there. They told me nearly all that Central and Northern Manchuria have a late spring, but in the Southern part the vegetation starts growing in the latter part of April. So when I leave Shanghai early in April, go to Peking to get papers and passport fixed, then I will arrive there about at the right time. I requested in my letter to the Japanese authorities

to be allowed to explore the region around the Yalu River and near the mouth of that river is Antung. So I may start there and work slowly up. I have been informed there are big robber bands there and I talked with fellows who showed me the scars of wounds they had received while in combat with these chaps, so I have some interesting trips ahead of me!

Yes, you have seen the thing in the right way, that there is a great amount of exploration ahead of us in the region southwest of Shanghai. There are tremendous districts there where no people have been as yet. It is nearly all mountains and some are pretty high, too. I have been informed that there is an enormous amount of game there and that tigers and wild cats are quite common. I didn't see any of these last ones while around Hanchan, but I know that some sportsmen killed a nice deer a few yards from where we passed that same morning. In ornamental plants, we will find there especially some fine evergreens, but of course, they will be only fit for the mild wintered regions. Still, on the highest mountains there may be also new hardy deciduous trees. I saw a few Larix while there and Bishop Moule told me that up to a few years ago Larix was never known to be in existance as far South as this latitude.

I received the cards but the envelope was badly broken, so I am afraid some were lost in transport. A pity if it is so. Do you know you can send letters to Shanghai via the American post office at domestic rates? As you have seen by my last mails, I am doing this already from here. So if I ever come again here, it might save the Department some. Sometimes the people have asked me why the Department doesn't send its mail through the Consular

and Minister's mail pouches which would do away with stamps. Well, I don't know. Of late, I was allowed to send my mail unstamped through the American Legation pouches; but here in Shanghai the post master says that anybody who isn't directly connected with the Consular or with the diplomatic service has to pay for his mail.

Now, I come to your last letter--the one of February 7, 1906.

About the naked oats, well, I didn't see them as yet. From what part of China do they come? Surely not from around here. Indeed, I didn't see any oats as yet where I have been. In Manchuria however, I suppose they have them, too. I have been told, at least, that they have all cereals there and also some fine hemp.

About root crops I haven't found out much as yet. I will have to go farther south and stay there a little while to find out. Around here there do not seem to be very many root crops. The water chestnut is grown and here and there a patch of taro, but the better things all grow farther south.

I see your note about rushes. Well, I think I had better go to that place mentioned to me and see things. I haven't seen a Japanese as yet who could give me some information and these Japs here are so distrustful of the whites that one has to handle these things very carefully. You say rushes being grown as annuals. Well, I never heard of that. I can hardly believe it, for a round-stemmed rush never makes much of long stalks the first year. Still, I will see what I can find out about it.

I do not thing I will send any more cuttings or scions from this time on. It is getting too warm for them and unless I

could make special arrangements to keep them in cold storage they will spoil.

Now we come at last to one point yet about which I have a few things yet to mention. The shipment of rooted plants. As you are aware up till now I haven't shipped any of such things as yet and I won't do it any more, because the season gets too far advanced. If I had been recalled this spring as I had expected, I would have brought several things with me, but as this is not the case now, I will do it the next time. Why, I haven't shipped such plants is for two reasons. First, I have seen shipments of plants here in China which came from America, England and even from close by Japan and yet in nearly every case the plants were in a very poor condition and a very great many were beyond help. So I do not want to ruin my reputation (for so far I have any) and ship things for which I only could receive criticisms and for which I would pay much money in freight and otherwise only to see them arrive dead. So that is the main reason. The second reason is that I haven't found many things really which were worth doing great expenses for and so it wouldn't have payed me to bring things personally down to Shanghai and see that they were placed aboard of a proper steamer and in a proper place.

But now there are a few things which are worth doing some trouble for and these are the hardy bamboo around Tientsin and Peking. Some varieties of Juniperus sinensis, some varieties of oranges and lemons and Olea fragrans and a few more plants grown in gardens up north and then around here we get the white loquat, a small variety of square bamboo, some very large bamboos, some Larix trees and a

strange kind of a Daphne and farther south we have the giant tangerine the loose-skinned and loose-segmented pomelo and the root crops. All these things are well worth doing trouble for and now I come with my proposal. If I am alive and well after having explored Manchuria, let me bring my collections with me to America and let me leave this country at such a period as to assure the best time to take shipments with me. That time is between the first of December and the first of April, but the best time will be between January 1st and March 1st and I should say that the month of February is really the best, but a man can't always count upon an exact time. I do not know if you agree with me in this, but I have had a kind of a vision in which I would be in the early part of the year in cold regions, in summer I would be in a nice climate and find many valuable things, in fall I would be in strange, densely wooded, lonesome but beautiful countries and in winter I would feel quite some cold and take at the middle of December a rest. So what this means we don't know as yet. I had this vision New Years Day and it was realistic that I almost accept it forgranted.

Well, I will see what next mail tells me. I am busy now with my notes and will send you some in a few days. Also some seeds, samples of fibre, photos, etc.

I will write probably another letter, too, with them. I failed to mention asyet how pleasantly I was treated by the American Acting Consul at Hanchan, Mr. F. D. Cloud. I stayed at his house for about four days and had it very nice there. He lives outside the city close to the mountains, so that made it very easy for me to have the

comforts of home, near the field of work. I would like to have gone somewhat farther in the interior, but the Consul didn't advise me to do so. There is quite a pronounced anti-foreign feeling here in South China and our talks ran often on this topic. When the Consul and I passed through the streets of Hanchan sitting in Sedan chairs, some of the Chinese sneered at us and said in a satiric way: "Maaigwa (Americans). The Consul also got an anonymous letter, just the evening I left, that the Chinese would murder all us foreigners at some date. Pleasant news, Isn't it? Well, let them do it if they like it; they will be sorry, though, for we whites will die hard!

Well, I'll stop for this time.

With best regard to you all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Sept. 28, 1908.

These strange premontions have really come true, now that I think about them!

In the early part of the year I suffered much cold up around Peking and in the train and even while around Shai.

In the summer I was in South Manchuria and North Korea in cool climes and found much in the line of shrubbery and woody plants. In the fall I passed through the lonesome, densely forested regions of Northern Korea and in the winter I travelled through Siberia and Northern Manchuria. In the month of December I was sick in Harbin and had to rest there for about three weeks before being in good shape again.

Shanghai, China,

March 17, '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Today I brought to the P. O. 2 parcels addressed to you. In one of them there are some pods of what appears to be a new kind of a honey-locust tree (Gleditsia sp.) and in the other one there is a miscellaneous collection.

There is one little tin case in that box numbered 214a, that has some what they call here lemon seeds in it; but I do not think they are lemons. They are probably the wild pomelo. In the region where I got them, they get sometimes severe frosts and also lots of snow. Some weeks ago they got 11 inches at one fall, so it may be that these trees are pretty hardy. Now, in what I am most interested in is which of the seeds came over best, i.e., those that were embedded in a low melting point paraffine wax or those in charcoal, especially in germination qualities I would like to hear something about them. If you can't get these seeds out easy, please heat the tube a little, so that it loosens from the edge, then it will slide out by itself.

My descriptions of different things are rather poor, but I am in the wrong season. Most things are leafless, so I can't see what they are.

2 nights ago I received a telegram from Washington, D. C., telling me to proceed to Manchuria in April, so I won't come home as yet this time. Well, Manchuria seems to be an interesting country. A little dangerous, no doubt, on account of big robber bands and deserters from the armies, but I seem to roll through all kinds of things,

so this trip won't hurt me neither.

How are my last batches of cuttings arriving? Somewhat better? I hardly think I'll send any more things from now on, for the season gets too far advanced. It is even warm here and the poorer classes of Chinese go already barefooted and have only 2 pieces of clothes on.

We are living here in China in a state of unrest, nobody seems to know from where the storm may be expected, but that the foreign nations are afraid of something proves that there are 15 men of war laying here in the harbor and I think the Chinese will think twice before they attack us.

Still such a state of affairs is not exactly pleasant and I hope that matters will be more peaceful these next coming years.

Well I'll stop again for this time. Receive, with your family and associates, my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Enclosed are the notes belonging to the seeds sent.

Shanghai, China,

March 18, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I am sending you five parcels in the Consular pouch. They contain different seeds and samples of fibre. I enclose also the notes belonging to these things. I am sorry I can't give better descriptions of some things but I am in the wrong season now for so far leaves are concerned, so I cannot write any more of most things.

There are a few things about which I would like to hear a little information. I sent you a small tin tube containing lemon seeds marked No. 214a (18439). Well, I imbedded 1/2 of these seeds in parafine wax and the other in charcoal. Please tell me which of the two germinates best. If you haven't got the time to mention these things, please let Mr. Oliver do it, for I am very interested in that matter. If it is possible to ship perishable seeds in parafine wax of low temperature melting point, then we may ship mango seeds and other very quickly perishing seeds the same way.

Of the Gymnocladus chinensis (Nos. 202a and 203a) I wish you would keep one or two pods in the collection of seeds of the Department and send also a couple of them to Mr. Dorsett. They may do well, perhaps in California. Could you, perhaps, ask Dr. Coville what kind of a family No. 211a belongs to?

I send you also this time some of the photos which I took of late. If you have a few nice photos of mountainous scenery or of things which may be of use to me, please send me some.

Of the oil seed, No. 216a, I will send more later on, when the new crop is ripe. I told Mr. Kennedy in Tang-hsi to save me a whole lot. Then you may try it on these southern ricelands.

Dr. Barchet paid me a visit yesterday and brought a few oranges with him which are extremely interesting. They look like an orange but on tasting them one finds they are tangerines with tonic bitter qualities. They come from Wan-chan, a few hundred miles south from here. Dr. Barchet says that is the only place they grow. Well, according to my opinion, they are a cross between the bitter orange and the tangerine and they are a very good hybrid. It is well worth getting them. They are of rather large size, dark orange colored, loose-skinned, loose-segmented and could be eaten at the breakfast table as a tonic fruit.

Dr. Barchet herewith sends his best regards to you and he hopes to write you before long. He was also kind enough to introduce me to Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Little, the author of Yangtse fame. It seems that there are interesting fruits in existance on these western borders of Se-schuan, where he spent most of this time. At least, I was told that some very fine persimmons and jujubes come from there.

I had a talk with Mr. D. MadGregor the other day. He received a letter from you, he told me, about the Pistache seeds. Well, he told me that he sent $10.00 up last fall to some missionaries up the Yangtse where the trees were reported to be in existance and the missionaries wrote that they had used the money in hiring men trying to find the trees but that all the seeds had gone already. Well, I suppose Mr. McGregor will write you himself soon about this matter.

We had it also about the way Mr. Wilson was equipped before starting out on his travels. My, that is different from what I went through. He first studied in the Kew Herbarium for a year almost, looking over the Chinese plants there, then went to Prof. Sargent and stayed with him there four months for the same purpose, then went to see Dr. Henry and stayed with him over a year and was also in the Hong Kong Botanical Garden for many weeks looking over the plants there and then after all these primary preparations he started the real exploring work. I also hear that they made it a practice to collect as little of rooted material as possible but on the contrary, wherever they could obtain seeds they did it and the Veitch people are very gratified with the results. I wish I could meet Mr. Wilson and some other explorers some of these days. They could give me many a pointer. He didn't take photos, though, so in this I am somewhat ahead of him.

I am sending you with this mail, also all my duplicate carbon cards. Some numbers are not in it because I sent some of them one to Mr. Dorsett and some to the Arnold Arboretum, too, but unless the mail failed to reach you, you have received one each, too. I, of course, keep also always one of each copy. Well, when you need duplicate copies of some, perhaps you may have some extra man helping you in typewriting them and if some are really lost, please give me the numbers and I will send you a copy of mine.

The American mails come in tomorrow and I suppose that the strawberry plants will be in that mail. Mr. Farnham has been after me already a few times, but they hadn't arrived as yet so I couldn't

give him. He received your letter mentioning that they were sent in my care.

I won't close this envelope as yet for the mail may tell me something on which I have to answer.

Well, with best of regards to all, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

March 20, '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Enclosed a few seeds of what seems to be a hybrid between a tangerine and a bitter orange. Try to grow them and report me especially in what state they arrived. When I'll be given an opportunity, I'll get the trees, but they grow quite a distance south from here.

With best of regards,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER

Shanghai, China,

March 21, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Today the mail steamer leaves at about noon so I will drop you a line or two announcing that I am going for a couple of days up the Yangtse River to find out where those matting rushes are grown. It is close to Nang-king.

I talked with Dr. Barchet about it. He says they have very fine rushes growing near Ningpo, where they cultivate them in large fields. When talking about the way of propagating them, Dr. Barchet said that they divide the old plants in spring time and plant them on the fields by hand. They don't use seeds.

Well, I hope to find out and send you some plants.

I received a book on Chinese medicinal products, a custom-house publication. You would oblige me very much if you could send the donor a few of our bulletins on fruit growing. His name is Mr. H. Webber, Health Departm., Municipal Consul, Shanghai, China.

Well, I close with this.

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

March 30, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

After a very trying and tiresometrip of nine days in the country in search of the matting rushes I came back at last to Shanghai, with the plants, of course.

We had rainy, chilly weather most of the time and accommodation and foods were bad, so I am not feeling as well as I should. Still, I hope to send the plants by tomorrow's mail.

I have lots of mail from you but I don't feel yet like answering it. I'll need to rest a few days. Then I'll be all right again.

The questions Mr. J. H. Tull put in his letter I will answer here.

Juncus effusus. Are you sure it is Juncus effusus?

This plant grows wild in Western Europe and in Holland. I have often seen them but they are much heavier of stem than these matting rushes are. If this is a Juncus effusus, it surely is a very different type from the wild one of Western Europe.

Soil. The character of the soil around Soochow, China, where they grow them in large fields is medium heavy clay. No sand or gravel in it.

Note: The wild one in Western Europe, though, always grows on low lying sandy land and wherever they occur it is an indication to the farmers that the land is sour.

Water supply. They always have 2 to 3 inches standing water on

the fields! Except in harvest time. Then they drain the fields for a few days, but as soon as the mown stems have dried and are removed they put the water on again.

Seeds. No seeds to be had for love nor money. They never let them come into seed.

Planting. In the month of October they divide the old clumps and plant them in the fields in rows. The rows are one foot apart and the plants in the rows 8 inches from one another.

Manuring. Around Soochow, China, they apply a liberal supply of beancake to the land which is plowed under before planting. When the plants show signs of being established, they fertilize with liquid night soil until the cold weather sets in. They then stop with it until the warm spring weather starts (early April). Then they start fertilizing again which they continue until the stems are about full grown.

Harvesting. In the hottest time of the year, for instance, the end of July, when the stems are full grown and the flowers haven't appeared as yet, then the Chinese cut them with a sickle. They let them dry on the fields which have been drained now of the standing water and after 2 to 4 days they are cured and are made into sheaves each about 8 inches in diameter at the base and they are stored in a dry, cool, airy shed. The Chinese assured me that while the stems are drying they mustn't have a drop of rain upon them, otherwise they spoil and lose their nice color.

Curing. I didn't see anything special about this around Soochow. I may say this, though, when they weave the stems into matting,

then they soak the sheaves for a night in the water and shake the water thoroughly out again before using.

Making of the matting. Around Soochow the women are employed in this industry which is done at the homes of the people. They have a strong, heavy frame, composed of 2 square vertical poles and 2 round horizontal ones. Around these two horizontal poles they have strung strings of a very strong, greenish fibre, probably a corchous (I obtained seeds from it). These strings are at regular distances and by having a narrow board with 2 rows of holes at regular distances through which these strings run, they are able to obtain distance enough to insert a wooden needle with a cut at the end in which a rush stem is inserted. They always put the top of the rush stem in the middle of the matting and have then the butt end at the edge of course. They wet the fibre string with water so as to make the stems slide easy. After several stems (5 or 6) have been inserted, they bring the dividing board down with some force so as to make the stems come close together and after they have woven 2 or 3 inches then they bring the board down with a heavy force and give several hard blows, after which the stems are close enough together so as to be left alone. They have different widths of frames of course for different sizes of matting.

Well, this is about all I could find out about the matting rushes here in this part of the country. Around Ningpo I have been told some taller varieties exist yet. I have no time anymore now, to find out; maybe later on.

It may be that I will be criticized for spending so much time in hunting up these rushes, but I thought that the people at Washington were unusually interested in this matter for otherwise I would have received a cablegram and different letters about it and so I went. If the people here had told me the truth I could have been back in three days but as usual they only believed that the plants came from a certain place and this proved not to be the case.

Well, this time I will close. I will rest a night and maybe feel better tomorrow.

With best regards to all, I am

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

March 31, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I am sending you three boxes with plants, one box with seeds and one bag with seeds and one cloth-wrapped bag containing one juncus. I think they will go in the Consular pouch.

I have no time to write notes in regard to them so I will on a separate page, some information about them.

The mail leaves in an hour so I must close. Good-bye.

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

521. The Matting Rush. From near Soochow, where I collected them. They must be grown in muddy soil with2-3 inches of standing water above the surface of it.

523. The Rush. From which pith, wicks, or Chinese oil lamps are made. Must also be grown in standing water.

525. The "Kaba." A new vegetable, said to be very delicious. Must also be grown in muddy soil with 3-4 inches of water on the top and must never get dry.

241a. A sample of matting, as made from the rushes sent. These small pieces of matting are used by Chinese (and foreigners in the interior too) to put on the pillows in the sultry summer nights.

242a. A sample of cured rush stems, ready for weaving into mats.

243a. A sample of wicks made from the piths of the wicker rush.

244a. An edible bean called pape to.

245a. Seeds of a white winter turnip.

246a. Seeds of a fibre-producing plant called pa mu. Probably Abutilon Avicennae.

247a. Seeds of the only genuine hemp I have come across yet. Called here Gu ma.

248a. Seeds of an oil producing plant called Ha su tse. Probably a variety of Brassica campestris.

249a. Seeds of a fibre-producing plant called Ching mu tse. The fibre is used in weaving the rush mats. Probably a Corchorus.

250a. A sample of barley.

251a. A white pea, considered a fine food. Called pa we tso.

252a. A brown pea of which the young tops are eaten boiled as a vegetable. Is grown as a winter crop on high lands. Called we tso.

253a. A sample of wheat from Tan yang.

254a. Hull-less barley. Obtained at Tan yang near Chinkiang. South of the Yang-tse River.

My servant mixed the outside bags so I am afraid a few got on the wrong boxes. Well, it doesn't harm the inside labeling is o.k. I have no time to tear the covers off and see if they are right. Too much hurry.

Please write me at your earliest convenience in what state things arrived.

F.N.M.

Shanghai, China,

March 31, '06

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Herewith I am sending you 3 small boxes by parcel post. They contain a few plants, which <u>may</u> arrive in good shape. I say they may, because I think it is getting too warm to ship things now.

I have no time anymore to write notes for these things, for the mail leaves in an hour and I came back yesterday from a very tiresome trip and do not feel as I ought to.

On the next page I'll write a few suggestions:

522 - 4 plants. The matting rush, as it grows around Soochow, where I collected them. They grow in standing water, 2-3 inches of it.

524 - 1 plant. The rush from which lamp wicks are made, of which I enclose a sample. It also must grow in the water.

526 - The"Kaba", 1 plant. A new vegetable, said to be very delicious. Grows also in standing water, 3-4 inches of it.

149 - Small red turnip. 3 pieces.

150 - A very large yellow carrot (2 pieces). Please try to raise seeds from them if possible and I wish you would write me in what state they arrived.

I got your letter of February 7 (Your clerk didn't put a stamp on again.) and I see that diff. things keep on arriving, some in good, some in bad shape. I got also the aluminum labels sent to me by Mr. Fairchild. My, I never thought they were that bad. I send you herewith only 2 more, so as to make the number complete, for now I have reached 150 which is easier for me to remember. Even if these last 2 do not arrive well there is nothing lost, for the turnips are 149 and the carrots 150.

Well, this time I have to close. I have to write Mr. F. also yet. Hoping the plants arrive well and wishing you the best, I am,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

April 5, 1906

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Today I will try to answer all your letters which I received by two mails.

Yours of February 3 (copy sent to Peking) was received and as I answered the original, I needn't refer to it any more, except that insofar as you speak of a cablegram which you sent me in care of the American Minister, to proceed to Shanghai, well, I didn't

receive such a cablegram. If Minister Rockhill received it, he probably thought it better not to forward it because I was on my way to Shanghai.

In your letter of February 14 you mention that the lot of grass packed with moist sphagnum is coming along better than the one packed dry. That is valuable information from my point of view (i.e., a shipper's). I also saw the labels sent by Mr. Dorsett to you. My, I never thought that this could be that bad. What firm sold these labels to the Department. Such a man ought to be prosecuted for imposing upon us such low class material.

From now on I won't use any of them, unless I might send dry material, but as I mark dry things always with an a. I hardly think I'll have need for them any more.

I also received the letter of February 16 sent to Nagasaki and the postal telegram forwarded to me by the Quartermaster of the U.S. Army at Seattle. Well, you know long ago already that I didn't go to Japan. The cablegram was happily worded in such a way that I didn't have to go if I thought it was better to stay here. I suppose the rushes have already arrived at Washington and at Chico and so I have a feeling that all that cabling and writing hasn't been entirely for nothing.

I didn't find out perhaps all the details of curing matting reeds, but I hope to have a little more opportunity to visit some more regions where rushes grow.

In regard to my travels in Manchuria, yes, you received the letter of the last of January in which I said that the Japanese government granted me permission but that I had to present myself to the Commander in Chief of the Japanese Army in Manchuria, who would give me the necessary permits. Minister Rockhill was of the

opinion that I wanted to go right away but as I hadn't received any such instructions from the Department of Agriculture I couldn't do it, so they thought that when I knew I had better come to the Legation again and then we would settle things and I just wrote two days ago to Minister Rockhill, informing him of my being ordered to proceed to Manchuria and asking him to be so kind and see that I receive the necessary papers. I also asked for a Russian permit because I have a feeling I am going to have dealings with them up in Manchuria.

If I am not allowed to have a free hand up there, I'll inform you at the earliest date. But, although the Japs act very funny these last times with tradespeople up in Manchuria, I hardly think they will have objections to scientific exploration work.

I see with interest your remarks about the different products of Japan. Yes, when I have an opportunity, I will do my best to obtain different things, but believe me, Mr. Fairchild, China is a far better country yet for America in so far as suitable plants are concerned, than Japan. Most of the plants which are of any use in Japan are simply introduced from China and I sometimes get angry when I see that the botanist have called nearly every plant as coming from Japan while their real home is China. Even in bamboos for which Japan is famous, do you know that China has things just as good? Did you see my photo No. 117? Isn't that fine bamboo, too, and though the Chinese are not as ingenious as the Japs are, still they make a wonderful lot of things out of them. Two things for which we especially could use them is to make step-

ladders and for irrigating purposes instead of these dear rubber hoses.

Your photographs of the Japanese maps were received yesterday. They are valuable. Don't you feel almost a pang at your heart in parting with such fine things? Now, you must not look strange at this remark for I feel it is quite a job to part with a thing like this when a man himself would rather explore the regions he has mapped out so well.

I received your letter of February 24, too, in which were enclosed the authorization to go to Japan and return and the note for Dr. True regarding the Camphor industry in Japan and Formosa.

You say you had a long talk with Professor Gore in regard to me. I wish I could have stood in invisible form behind your chairs and had overheard your conversation! "He is a strange kind of a chap and of a roving dispostion." Isn't that the conclusion to which you both came?

Now I come to the letter of February 21 in which you announce you received my communication in regard tomy desire to be called back. Well, as matters stand now, I think I had better go to Manchuria. I love the work so well that I would hate myself to give it up, but you see, peace of mind is a first requisite to do successful exploration work and with all these financial difficulties and with the chances of losing so much, you surely will agree with me that a man would rather get out of such a position than to keep on incurring heavy expenses.

I am glad you think my work is of value. I do not know much about what other explorers obtained and even if others got hold of more things than I did, they surely were not in such difficult countries as this heavenly kingdom is.

You received the photos, didn't you? Well, if you are going to publish some things, you may use any photo you think best. Even if we publish later on a final report about exploration work in China, it won't hurt to use a good photo which has been used before. The public never gets tired of a good thing.

I see you are building a model cold-house. Where is it going to be? By the way, how is the new building progressing? When I come back things will look different again.

About the position for a gardener on the Panama Canal. Are there any financial problems down there, too? (This I only joke, of course). Well, I do not know a man just now whom I could recommend. Mr. Fullgraft is not exactly a strong man and would he like it himself. You see, Panama has a very bad name and when there isn't much pay in it either, I am afraid you will have a hard job to find a good man. In my opinion the best way is to put an advertisement in a gardening paper. Then you will get applications from those chaps that love some adventure and select the one that has had some previous experience in some tropical land, even if he drinks a little, because a newcomer doesn't know absolutely what to do in such entirely different conditions and may get sick, too, in less than no time.

I see you are at the beautification of your country home and would like to hear of new plants which may be of use to you.

Well, are you having some brook or some creek running through your property? If so, do plant some Japanese flags (Iris Kaempheri). There are dreams of beauty among them. You can get almost all shades of color from pure white to almost black.

Among plants I sent, the beautiful large leaved oak, Nos. 24a and 25a, will be very nice to plant. They change into a most gorgeous scarlet in fall time. The maple, No. 27a, is a fine tree, too, having nuances of color in autumn of the most delicate descriptions. Then, do you love weeping trees? The weeping Pagoda tree (Sophora japonica var. pendula) is a delightful little tree. The Chinese and Japanese both regard it with a religious respect. Plant also a few clumps of the Chinese tree peony (Paeonia Moutan) and have some big Chinese or Japanese porcelain vessels in which you can plant some lotus roots. A white-barked pine would be nice too, but still you would be old and gray and ready to go to sleep forever, before you could see its glistening white bark. In small shrubs, Forsythia suspensa, flowering in early spring with golden bells, is nice, and the Chinese redbud (Cercis sinensis) is pleasing, too. Have also a few clumps of Magnolias. They are so noble in early spring. A shrub to plant near an old wall or near a waters edge is the Euonimus Bungeanus. This shrub is covered in fall with white capsules out of which scarlet berries hang. Have Boston ivy planted against the walls of your house. Have a Celastrus paniculatus run against your chimney or in an old tree. Have against your porch the beautiful Japanese Virgin's Bower (Clematis paniculata grandiflora.) Have some white barked birches along a roadside. They are

the most elegant of all northern trees. If you can get a specimen of the Davidia involucrata, sent to England by Wilson, do try it. Mr. McGregor told me it has proven hardy in Scotland. I hardly think my yellow rose will be fit for your work. It isn't a trailing rose, you see, although it makes shoots ten feet long sometimes. For lattice work I would take some ramblers and also Wistarias, or even trumpet-vine (Tecoma radicans), although this last one rather likes a wall to climb against. In Clematis you may find some species well fit for covering lattice work. The aforesaid Clematis paniculata var. grandiflora is very fine for it. This one perfumes the whole neighborhood when in bloom (September). Well, I think you have a more competent man there in Washington than I so I had better close with all my advice.

I won't touch the money problems now. I am busy on straightening my accounts out and will thank Heaven when I am through.

I use this time paper that was badly damaged by the typhoon here. You said in a former letter I could use it to you and so, paper being rather hard to obtain here, that is, the right kind, I had better use it up. Enclosed are the notes concerning the plants I sent last week. I also sent cuttings of Buddleya asiatica. I think this plant is unknown as yet to us. Mr. Oliver will try his best at them if they are new to us.

With best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai China,

April 4, '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Enclosed are the few notes which belong to the plants I send you last Saturday and which I hope arrived already and in good state.

I also send part of them to Washington in special consular pouch. I wonder which of the two lots will arrive best.

How is No. 70 getting along? Mr. Fairchild wrote me that the ones sent with sphagnum between them are doing well in Washington and that Mr. Oliver succeeded in making a lot of them grow. Now, which locality will prove to be the best for them. I think your place because you haven't the warm, muggy summer which they have down East, but let we see. -

You wrote that the box with seeds hadn't arrived yet, Febr. 7. That 's funny; from Wash., tho, I got tidings that the things have arrived there. Perhaps they send the box intended for you down there too. But then they must have changed the address, for I addressed it to your place.

Mr. F. and Mr. Pieters wrote me that they hope I reconsider my intentions of going back to America. They are extremely well satisfied with my work and want me to keep it up. Well, I think I better stay then in this country but it must be made somewhat easier for me in financial matters, for I can't afford to loose my hapiness for a lot of red tape business. O, no, I can't afford that.

I have been offered some good pisitions in this country, but I rather stay with the country I have adopted; but if money matters didn't

go straight, well, then I prob. would accept a position here.

I see from your letter that you are in a rush of work. Well I would like to see the garden again. How is your well now, still caving in? And that Actinidia in the lathhouse, did it bear fruit last year?

Well, with best wishes and regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

In a few days I'll be on the road to far away Manchuria.

Shanghai, China,

April 6, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

It wasn't possible to do all things in one envelope and so instead of enclosing the notes in the big one I have to make a second letter.

Have you anybody in the Department who would be able to say from what material these Japanese envelopes are made? They are much tougher than ours and they are admirably good to put seeds in because they do not tear or do not crack open when a little too full. They seem to glue them, too, with a different material than we use.

Yesterday I received the strawberry plants for Dr. Farnham. They had been put into the Legation pouch instead of in the Consular one and were sent up to Peking. They were quite moist, but I am afraid the hearts had rotted a little too much. Well, Dr. Farnham will do his best to get them to grow.

Enclosed are also three photos. I had bad weather most of the time, much rain and very dull, chilly weather, so a few photos I took turned out to be failures.

There is another question yet which I wish you would take up.

I begin to find out that some of the material I collect might prove to be of great value to the U. S. but now the U. S. has such poor postal regulations with other countries concerning parcels that notwithstanding the great value of some plants I may find I won't be able to send by parcel when they are a little heavier than four pounds. Now I wish the Secretary of Agriculture would take the matter up with the Postmaster General and give me a special written permit that on account of the value of the things I collect I will be allowed to send things through the mail heavier than four pounds but not to exceed the international limit, i.e. eleven pounds. If we could get such a thing through it might prove to be a wedge with which we could split the opposition against an international parcel tariff.

And another thing, too. You have probably seen that these last parcels I sent you containing seeds, rushes, etc. were far heavier than four pounds. Well, that was because they were sent in the Consular pouch and Consul-General, Mr. Rodgers, was so kind as to give me the last time even a special Consular pouch. When I expressed my thanks to him for this very special privilege, he expressed doubts as to whether the State Department will approve of him doing so. Now, it would be ab awful pity, if he would receive a rebuke for such a thing, so I wish that you might obtain through the Secretary of Agriculture a special written permission from the Secretary of State that I am allowed, as its being of the utmost importance to the U. S. to use the Consular pouches in sending letters and material to the U. S. It will insure us greater safety and at the same time will be a considerable saving of money.

The plants I sent to Mr. Dorsett the last time (some rushes) I had to put in very small parcels because otherwise they would have weighed over four pounds. Is, there, then, not even so much honesty in America that we can't fight the lobby who puts up for the express companies?

You didn't mention one word in your last letter about the contents of the boxes. Did things arrive in good shape or not? How was that quince fruit? And these parcels I sent from Peking in early January, did they arrive? If so, how were the Pistache and horse chestnut scions?

I would suggest to you to give part of your correspondence over to Mr. Barret, I mean that part concerning arrival and condition of things for as you will understand, I am very interested in these matters as they will guide me in future shipments.

I remain,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

April 9, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I am sending you the accounts of November, 1905, December, 1905, January 1906, February 1906, and March 1906. They are each in a separate envelope. I hope they will be considered good.

The accounts for the period July 26 to October 31 inclusive I haven't been able as yet to straighten out not having gotten all the vouchers exchanged into silver. I hope to have the thing done, though, while up in Tientsin and Pekin; if so, I will probably send them down to you from New chang, Manchuria, where I will make a starting point for the exploring work in Manchuria. There is an

American Consul there who may be able to assist me a good deal. I left my address here in Shanghai, c/o American Consul-general, Newchang. Of course, I do not stay there long, but I think I will make my headquarters there just like I did last year in Peking.

In one of my recent letters I made the mistake of putting Newchang on the mouth of the Yaly River. After the letter was posted I remembered my mistake but I couldn't alter it any more. It is Antung which I meant.

The name New chang is written in so many different ways that I really don't know which one to take. In the Consular list it is written Niuchwang, but out here one sees it most times written as I did it.

Tomorrow I will be on the ocean on my way to Tientsin and then to Peking, then back again to Shan Hai Kwan and from there to Newchang. The railroad is apparently in working order, so unless the Japanese put special obstructions in the way I will be there soon.

About your suggestions in regard to obtaining signed statements wherever I exchange money, etc. Yes, I will try to get them whenever possible. As not having many, though, in regard to these last eight months of exploring work, I am willing to have my money exchanged at the regular quarterly rate. I don't care for these few cents I lose.

Have some of these gentlemen who drew up all these regulations ever been out in a foreign country and especially in a country like China, where the money matters are so terribly mixed up? If so, they probably would have made different regulations. Do you know that out here many people object to signing vouchers and other

things. If the amount is small especially and they make even rather unpleasant remarks about it. I do understand more and more why some people would rather not travel for the Government!

I see your note about not delaying the sending in of accounts. Well, I'll get lots of stormy letters on that account, I suppose. I see the ruling about this thing and they say that they should be sent within twenty days after the period to which they relate. How about when one is far away from any settlements where mail matter can be received? Or where it isn't safe to post one's mail? My travels around Peking enabled me to follow this rule, but when really out in the wildernesses of Manchuria and Siberia, I am afraid matters will be often very difficult. Well, we'll see and do the best we can.

Today I bought a copy of Bret Schenider's history of Chinese plants. There are two volumes and cost $14,00 Mexican. Do you think I can get the money back? I also will buy me tomorrow morning a good revolver with 100 cartridges for according to quite a few people I met there is a goodly lot of outlaws in Manchuria after this last war. It would be pleasanter for me now if I was in a party with some more white men. Well, let it go, boys.

I am sending you with each account sheet two other ones properly signed. This will relieve me of a whole lot of work if you can fill them out in Washington. I also put two extra ones in, in case something should happen to some of the others. In case a whole account would get lost in the mail or in some other way, how would we be able to get out of such a scrape? I would like to hear your answer on this question, for forewarned is forearmed,

isn't it?

I think the trip on the sea will give me some rest for these financial troubles do not contribute much to one's well-being.

With best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. As you see on the account sheets, I haven't entered my salary. I think I will do it, though, for the period from July 10 until September 30, inclusive, You see, I have to enter it in Mexican silver and I am afraid my losses on it will be quite a good deal so I had better leave in on the letter of credit until June 30. Then I can draw it in one lump sum. As it is not necessary, I have been informed, to draw one's salary every month, this will not give you any trouble.

F.N.M.

Tientsin, China,

April 23, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Last night I came back from Peking where I stayed six days on account of getting my papers and letters of introduction in the proper shape. Just now I have quite some trouble in getting a guide and some trustworthy coolies to accompany me. My old guide told me just a few hours ago that he doesn't want to go on account of the many dangers up in Manchuria; so that leaves me in

a rather unpleasant situation. These Chinese are awfully easily scared! We are all shocked here about that terrible earthquake in San Francisco. Is the garden at Chico destroyed, too? Is Mr. Burbank dead? This card is painted by a Chinese artist. Do you recognize that fingered lemon? Well, I hope to be in Manchuria within some days; as soon as I can get some servants to accompany me.

With best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Tientsin, China,

April 25, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

As you see I am still in this part of China and as yet not in Manchuria, although I have been trying to do my best to get there. As I wrote you on the postal, I am detained now on account of not being able to get my old guide with me. I suppose the people had told him many bad things about the country for he expressed fears for being killed, etc., etc., and also on account of it being too long a journey, for I told him that I expect to return from Manchuria about five to eight months from now. Well, that settled it with him. I sent him out to look for another chap that could take his place but he was unable to get one and now these last days I have been inquiring all over the town to get some fellows that have the courage to go with me and stay out a long time. Well I had

a talk with one Chinaman who seems to be the right kind and tomorrow I hope to settle with him. I paid him some money in advance so I think he will stick to his promise. If he doesn't meet any Chinese tonight who are going to scare him, then things will be all right. If I have them once on the go then it is pretty hard for them to go back for travelling is too expensive a luxury for an ordinary Chinaman to indulge in.

In Peking I had to stay also somewhat longer than I expected. Still, I got a letter of introduction in English and Chinese from our Minister and one in Russian from the Russian Minister and the Japanese authorities say that the military commander of the Japanese army in Manchuria will give me the proper permits, if I am going to present myself to him. Sorry to say, I am not able to obtain the regular passports because I am really not a regular citizen as yet, for I haven't got my second paper. If I had stayed in the States, I would have had my second paper October next, but now I do not know when I will get it. Could you perhaps find out whether the time I served the Government out here will be counted as being in U. S. territory? I would be very pleased to hear any information about this thing. The Legation people told me that they were not at liberty to go against the rules in this case, i.e., in giving me passports where I am not entitled as yet.

I am sending you herewith the vouchers for the period July 26 to August 31 and for the month of September. These for the month of October aren't ready as yet for I have to change one voucher yet in Shan Hai Kwan and obtain a few more yet if possible.

I hope to send it from Newchwang though probably together with the accounts for this month. Whether I will be able after that time to send accounts in regularly every month is very doubtful but I will try it. You must know that the whole of Manchuria is in a very unsettled state and I will travel through parts where I may be away for weeks from any civilization as we may call it such.

If the people decide to let me stay here in the Orient after this fiscal year is ended, then I will probably need another authorization letter, isn't it? Well, I wish you would enter on that letter that I be allowed to purchase medicines, for these things are quite an item of expense here and I have really no permission to buy them and yet I do need them, not only for myself but also for my men.

There is another thing which I am afraid will cause some trouble. I left my cooking pans and pottery in Peking last winter in charge of a Chinaman with the understanding that I would get them back this spring. When I came back, well, now that man has cleared out and the things have disappeared. It is no use going to the police and be detained perhaps for many days in consequence, so I think I had better get me new things, but I am somewhat afraid that the fiscal people will have objections to make against getting new things. Well, we will try and see.

I am also sending you some photos with this letter. You may use them for publication if you think them good enough. I didn't get any mail from you in a long time, but as I left my address in Shanghai and in Peking as that of c.o American Consulate, Newchwang, I hope to find some when I am there. The spring has set in here

nicely; peaches blossoming, and cherries are about over and the trees are putting forth new leaves, but the weather is not ideal. Too dry entirely and too many dust storms which make one's eyes smart and the fine, brown dust penetrates through all window cracks and enters one's clothes and even goes into one's trunks and other baggage. I have a feeling as if there is a storm on the road coming from the financial quarters. Can it be?

With best wishes to all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

New-chwang, Manchuria,

May 2, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

As you see by this I am now in Manchuria. I arrived really in Manchuria the morning of April 29, for Manchuria starts a few miles northeast of Shan Hai Kwan, so I have obeyed the letter of the telegram which left me happily the whole of April to reach this country. If you had put in an early date, I wouldn't have been able to reach it, notwithstanding I tried hard, but it seemed as if obstacle after obstacle appeared in my way. First the delays in trying to find the matting rushes, then a period of unwellness, then the delays in Peking in connection with the proper papers and then the problem of getting a guide and a good coolie whom I could trust and who were not afraid. Well, I succeeded after all

in being here on time. So I hope you will consider all the obstacles before you pronounce a judgment.

Thank you for your appreciative letter which I received yesterday. I am glad that you all consider my work as all right. I know myself how many short comings there are but I find out more and more that this exploration work is just like any other work, in so far as one has to go through lots of experiences before one is becoming an expert.

I see that there is a probability of my being recalled in July. Well, if so, it would be a pity for the fall time will be really my most valuable time out here. If the Government doesn't see fit any more to pay my expenses, couldn't we write to some millionaires or to some wealthy nurserymen to defray the costs until winter. It will be only a few thousand dollars and the products I find will surely be worth far more. If you decided to call me back I think you had better wire only one word to the American Consul in Vladivostock, Siberia, for if nothing extraordinary happens I will go overland along the Yalu and the Tumen Rivers to Vladivostock and from there overland again by carts to Harbin, then down to Kirin, Mukden and New-chwang. This trip will last from five to eight months and there will be plenty of strange experiences coming to me, I feel that; but I have a feeling, too, that I return alive again.

If I am called back in this time, by what way do I have to come back? It is not necessary, of course, for me to come back, is it? I will forfeit the free passage, of course, but if I settle the financial matters all right, then I don't have to come back.

If I come back, is there any work for me or not? These questions show you about in what state of mind I am. I hope you see fit to answer them.

Yes, you are right about the scarcity and dearness of grains down here. In vain I tried to obtain more dry land rice around Shan Hai Kwan but the farmers told me that they hadn't enough themselves for sowing purposes. And I had a talk with Mr. Hosie, too, in Peking, and he had been able to obtain only a very small quantity of that rice. He complimented the Americans and their Government upon being so practical and up-to-date in trying to obtain all these valuable products. He was agreeably surprised when I told him that we skimmed his books and consular reports to find out what was good for us. He wasn't able to give me the exact localities in Manchuria for dry land rice, but he said he never heard of it as far North as Moukden. It seems that this dry land rice is really a rather rare product and used only for private consumption. I saw the farmers sow it near Shan Hai Kwan on April 28, and they sow it the same as wheat or even somewhat thinner. The furrows are not plowed very deep, only four or five inches. They are the usual distance apart and the soil is rather poor; sandy and gravely loam.

About the Pistacia sinensis seeds, well, I sent two lots of them, neither very large, though, and both went to Chico because your climate at Washington is in all probability a little too cold for them. Now you see why I used to put on the foot of the notes, to Chico, or to Washington, D. C., but as you wrote that this was confusing, I didn't do it any more. Mr. Dorsett got quite a few

things which you didn't receive. I think you had better write him and let him give you a list of the things, that is if he is alive. We saw in the telegrams that in Santa Rosa alone 200 people were killed, so I wouldn't be a bit surprised if Chico hadn't some victims too. I hope sincerely, though, that nothing has occurred there.

I am amazed that the Chinese are going to start an experiment station at Moukden. Is it on paper only or are they really going to do something? Yes, when I come to Moukden I will look these two Chinese gentlemen up. If they have been brought up down South, they won't like it up here, though, for really these northern countries are deserts in comparison with South and Central China.

I herewith send you the accounts for October, 1905 and for April, 1906. That October account has cost me lots of trouble to get in shape. Some of these people that had signed the vouchers in gold had moved away and the locating of them was a tiresome job. Well, if ever another man goes out, for Heaven's sake, let the first thing be that is told him : "Put your accounts in in the general currency of the country."

Now there are a few questions again about these vouchers. On the new blanks Mr. Zappone sent me there is written that the accounts must be mailed within twenty days after the quarter to which they pertain, but you say in your letter to start the accounts as soon as possible at the end of the month. Who is right? Mr. Zappone writes me that he will be glad to supply me with further information about these subjects. Well, I am going to ask him what to do when out in the wilderness and not being able to mail an account after the twenty days have expired. All these accounts,

vouchers, etc., etc., have all been made for civilized conditions but exploration work is very often out of such conditions.

I signed the whole lot of blanks Mr. Zappone sent me. If I have to come back I hardly think they will use them then. A pity of the paper, work, etc.

I see that the Catalpa Bungeana No. 12 hasn't arrived. Well, that certainly is lost then, for I sent them to you. If all the acorns are dead, I will collect other ones if possible and pack them in with moist charcoal, also with the chestnuts.

About the Actinidia, I may say that I haven't seen one of them yet. The only time I came somewhat in contact with it was when an American Baptist missionary, Dr. Evans in Yongtchow, gave me some jam made from these fruits and it was very palatable.

You say that the Crataegus pinnatifida will interest Prof. Sargent and all those that breed these rosaceous things. Well, of course, he can have a few scions of them but the plant is really too good to be put in an arboretum or in an experiment station. I would rather see them distributed to nurserymen and be put in the trade. The tree itself is a nice park tree and the fruits make nice preserves, not only to eat with bread but good enough to have it in layers between cake.

Mr. Oliver wrote me that the large persimmons have shoots six inches in length. Well, that is very pleasing news to me. So these valuable things are established now.

About asparagus, I'll look out. Brett Schneider says in his book that there are four species growing around Peking. Well, I know one kind growing in the grounds of the temple of Heaven. The

Chinese collect the young shoots in spring time and sell them as a vegetable. They are, however, not very nice, for they are green and thin. Lastfall I collected a small quantity of seeds from them thinking they might come handy, but now my coolie cleaned my seed-box out a few days ago and all I can find now is the paperbag in which they have been and in which only one seed is left, which I send up herewith.

Here in New-chwang spring is just starting. The dwarf elms are in bloom, willows are pushing forth tiny leaves and the grasses are greening. There seems to be little worth introducing from this part of Manchuria. I am asking to go Westward and North West but as yet the necessary papers haven't been obtained to travel unmolested through the country. You must know that the whole country is still under Japanese military control and things are not at all easy yet. Still, I have hope to get through without the necessity of getting the Secretary of State in it. The commander of this town is sick. At least, they say so, and the military commander of the whole Japanese army in Manchuria is said to be at the present in Tokyo, so they claim they can't do much now. I had talks with Consul-general Mr. T. Sammons these days and he has asked the acting administrator of this city to wire the military authorities in Lio-yang, which they said they did, but as yet no answer has come.

The Legation people in Peking expressed some doubts about people being allowed to go through Manchuria. They say everything is as yet in the hands of the military commander and though they won't flatly refuse a man to go through, they will

put in such obstacles as the dangerousness of the country and that they can't protect a man there and as such they can't bring their government into an unpleasant position if a man came over some accident, etc., etc. Well, we will see how it goes! I will wait a few days longer and then I take another course.

You see, I use my old paper up. It is very light, this, and as I have to pay postage here, it makes the money last longer.

Well, I finish now. With best regards to you all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P. S. I think you had better address the mail matter to Peking again. I always let them know where I am and very soon I will be out of touch with all post offices.

Enclosed are also a few slips pertaining to these dear (?) money matters.

New-chwang, Manchuria,

May 9, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Last night I came back from a four days' trip in the country and I found your two letters (March 26 and April 3); also the enclosed letter of Introduction to Mr. Cheshire.

Well, Mr. Cheshire and I know one another already pretty well. We often saw each other in the Consulate in Shanghai and

lately also in Tientsin. As you probably know already, Mr. Cheshire has been appointed as general supervisor (or something similar) over all the consulates here in the Far East and as such he is not going to Mukden. He is also not familiar with Manchuria, not having been there, except perhaps on a passing trip, for I had several talks with him about this country.

I also notice Mr. Waite's note in regard to different disease. Well, if these samples of pear disease were not blight, what could they be then? If I have another opportunity I will examine that particular pear tree again. I am sorry I didn't obtain any branches of blighted trees in Chefoo. Well, I will be on the lookout for it now for it isn't quite honorable that I should have made a mistake in this case.

As I wrote already at the head of this letter, I have been out in the country for four days, about a hundred miles north of here, where it was reported to me that some fine fruits grew there. Well, it certainly is a fruit district, but is nearly all pear orchards and the varieties are only two or three and they are all hard-fleshed ones. A few small apples and plums are grown, too, and some apricots, but otherwise there isn't much. In the mountains, though, some interesting trees occur. For instance, a linden or lime tree with large leaves; a few large specimens of Juglans mandshurica were seen. Then there were some three different varieties of Celtis, two species of maples and one leguminous tree which I do not know. The mountain sides too were here and there covered with wild apricots and I obtained a small quantity of last year's seed

from an old priest. In herbaceous plants one could see that we are here already in somewhat more northern latitudes, for one sees here the day lilies (Hemerocallis sp) grow and anemones, Solomon's seal (Convallaria multiflora), Clematis sp, Lilium sp., Delphinium sp., different kinds of violets and some of the smaller wild flowers like dandelion, forget-me-nots, etc.

In the small shrubs there were some varieties of the mock orange and two or three species of spiraeas, one of which was nicely in bloom. As everywhere here in China, though, the people clear the steepest mountain sides regularly and one saw here and there old stumps of what might have been beautiful trees. It is miserable for us white men to see how little appreciation a Chinaman feels for the wild vegetation. I passed some yards where the bundles of twigs were stacked up and one saw in these bundles the branches of trees which if they had been allowed to grow would have produced fine trees.

Well, there is no use bewailing the Chinaman's disregard for the beauty of nature. The thing is, that I will have to go up farther north where there are fewer Chinese. And for that reason, I am negotiating these days with the Japanese authorities who have control of this city and of the whole of South Manchuria and now today I hear from the Consul that the people here are unable to give me the proper permits, so I have to proceed to Port Arthur where the headquarters are of the Japanese Army. I had several talks with the Japanese authorities down here about things, but they say, "Yes, some ports are opened or being opened, but the country lying between is closed, it being all under military control and I hear from dif-

ferent other parties that the civil authorities are willing to make opportunities for travelling more liberal but that the military authorities are very much opposed to that and so the thing seems to remain as it is. And now, when the newspapers publish glowing accounts of how Manchuria is going to be opened or really is already opened, don't you believe a word of what they say. Those that are in the country itself know better.

Manchuria just now is an unhappy country. Nobody knows really what they are going to do here. Japan occupies the southern part of it, Russia the northern portion and between these two parts there is a belt through which nobody is allowed to pass, so that keeps the trade very much back; then the Western strip of Manchuria is in name under control of the Chinese, but in reality it is in the hands of powerful bands of robbers who levy blackmail on everything that passes through. In the city where I lodged with a missionary, Kwangning is the name of the town, there were four robbers brought in last Sunday and they were being given 100 blows each with the sharp bamboos. Mr. W. Hunter, the missionary I stayed with, told me that some time ago the city had been besieged by these robbers for three days and nobody could go in or out of the town and to complete the surprise I felt at hearing that he told me that he had now such a robber in his house and when I looked rather strange at him he said, "Yes, the servant that waits upon us at the table is one," but he added that he has been converted into a Christian now and has given up all relations with his former associates. Well, I carried my loaded revolver upon me night and day and slept really only with one eye, but nothing occurred except that one suspicious

looking individual came closely riding up to our cart when we left the aforesaid city, but he having seen that I was a white man and was armed, drove off again in a different direction. But that I will have, perhaps, some funny experiences with these chaps seems to be certain.

Another unpleasant thing is the dearness of things here. I have been having quite some trouble with my guide and the coolie on account of the dearness of food and of lodgings, etc. In many cases things are two and three times as high in price as in other parts of China. I am negotiating now with the owner of a few carts to take me through the country but that man wants so much money that I can't do that. Mr. Hunter told me that he had to pay as much as $12.00 per day for one cart and two mules and even now they want $6.00 per day and Heavens knows what they will do when out in the country. It is known that if they thought the country too dangerous to proceed any farther simply to refuse to do a step more. A friend of mine here lost thousands of dollars worth of perishable goods on that account. Well, we will see, that is all.

In your last letter you asked whether I knew how the Chinese preserve their dates (Zizyphus vulgaris). Well, of all that I have seen and asked about they just dry them on boards or in baskets in the sun in the open air and when they have reached a certain degree of dryness, they are packed in very large cane baskets. Some of the finest varieties are exposed to steam before being eaten and that softens them nicely. They stuff the common dates in some kind of a millet cake, which they have exposed for

sale all over the country. There is a very fine variety said to come from Sessahuan which is really excellent, but the ordinary varieties are really only 2nd and third class fruit. If that gentleman in Texas has quite a quantity of these date trees, he might try to sell his products to the Chinese colonies in New York, Boston, and perhaps San Francisco, too.

Today I met two gentlemen from the Japanese Department of Agriculture. One of them is going to be employed in the newly to be established experiment garden in Mukden. So it seems that that garden is really going to be made. I hope to see things there before long. It is said that Mukden will be opened to Foreign trade on the first of June, but--who knows?

The elder gentleman (I do not know their names as yet fully for I met them at the Consul's house and we were verbally introduced to each other) told me that they had made arrangements to introduce a lot of trees from Hokaido into Manchuria, for he said the climate corresponds much with this climate around here. I think, however, it is much moister up in that northern island, but still it may be. He admitted, though, that they didn't have the alkali there which is so plentiful here. I also hear that they grow some kind of a clover in winter on their rice lands, but couldn't get details as yet for the Consul had some official business to transact with them, but I think you might get perhaps some seeds from the Japanese Department of Agriculture and see anyway what it is.

Well, I hope before long to be able to inform you whether I really can travel all through Manchuria or not.

With best regards and wishes to all, I am,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Newchwang, Manchuria,

May 9, '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Your big letter of March 31 was rec'v'd by me last night when I came back from a 4 days trip out in the country. I do hope you are alive and unhurt while I am writing this. I do not know how wide the circle has been in which the earthquake has made itself felt and as news here is very meagre, I may never hear anything more about it. If you felt the disturbance, I am afraid your hothouses, etc. suffered quite some, isn't it?

You see I am alive as yet, notwithstanding all the rumors of uprisings etc. etc. We are living here in a strange country and I think I'll get quite some strange experiences these coming months, for now I will have to travel through an unknown and wild country infested with big robberbands and with wild animals, like tigers, leopards, bears, wolves, etc. For these wild animals I haven't so very much concern, but I must say that the robbers are far more to be feared, not exactly for the danger of being murdered, no that is a matter of few moments, but the robbing part of it is unpleasant. For suppose one is in the wilderness and they take all one's supplies and money away, what is a man going to do then? It may mean starvation or something like it. Up to the present I haven't had any encounters with these chaps as yet, but I know that last winter 5 Greek merchants were murdered and all their goods were taken away and everyother day one hears of people

being robbed of everything they possessed. Last Sunday while I was in the town of Kwang-ning, the soldiers had caught 4 of these robbers and they were given a public beating on the naked back with sharp bamboo sticks. Of course these fellows don't care for that. It will take more strenuous measures to clear them out. Well, we will take things as they come. I personally have a feeling as if everything will pass all right.

I see with much pleasure that so many of the things I send are doing well with you. Of course we can't expect everything to be in perfect shape after it has passed thro such a long period of transit. Why a certain number of cuttings rot and another number not is very strange. I suppose individual resistance to these rotting bacteriae has something to do with it. The same with the rooted plants. Why did the roots of the Catalpa bungeana and of the bladderpod tree rot and why did the roots of the small pine tree, No. 57 remain healthy?

The list of things you send me isn't complete is it? If not, I would be pleased to receive a slip of paper with all the numbers on it of the things you received up till now. I suspect that a few parcels have become lost in the mails, at least Mr. Fairchild reported me one already. They also send you things from Washington, don't they? For I see some numbers which I didn't send you.

Yes, I surely believe that you are having difficulties with the money matters too, but you are living in civilized conditions and only 5 days away from Washington but it takes my mail sometimes 8 weeks to reach them and they send me a few days ago a ruling from the treasury that, when accounts are not send in within 20 days after the period to which they pertain, the Treasury will object

in advancing any more money after the present appropriation is expired. How I am going to do in a case when I am out in the wilderness for a couple of months, is a think I don't know. Well, I have come to the conclusion now not to worry any more about it. If it goes, all right, if it doesn't go - all right too. ThatI, however, will accept a further appointment under existing conditions, is very doubtful. Life is too short to have all that silly red tape business.

Yes, you are surprised, aren't you, that poor T. T. is so entirely left out. Yes, I really ought to send him some, even if it was only a bad weed or so, but I rather leave that over to those that take some interest in him. I myself don't do that and I think he better work out his own salvation. I suppose tho the Dept. will send him perhaps some things for as long as he is there they have to take an interest in the place. Have you been in Santa Ana since or have you any idea whether he has already obtained any results out of his diff. crossings? l.i. a quinquat (quince x loquat) a pea-wall (peanut x walnut) or a tom-crab (tomato x crabapple) I expect some of them very soon these days. The best day, however, to put them on the market would be April 1st, A.D. 2,000.

Well, these days I am negociating with the Japanese authorities in trying to obtain the proper papers to travel all thro Manchuria, for you must know that this country is as yet entirely in the grip of the military men. There are only a few ports open to foreign commerce and no white man is allowed to go in the interior beyond certain lines. A whole lot of bother, I assure you that. I think that I'll have to proceed down to Port Arthur to see the Commanding General himself

and even then I am not so very sure in obtaining as liberal a permit as I would like to get. Well, it is all to the good of Uncle Sam, so one can afford to go through some unpleasant affairs.

I saw you made my Carex sp. only a $100,000,000. Well that is rather much, but still, I hope you'll live to see its usefulness in dry regions and then really 1 million doll. won't seem to o much of a value put on it.

Wishing you and your associates the best of health and success, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. Please weigh your letter the next time. Instead of a 5 ct. stamp, there ought to have been a 10 ct. one on it. International rates! Goodbye.

Port Arthur, Manchuria,

May 14, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

This time I am here trying to arrange to obtain the necessary permits. The remnants of the destruction wrought by the late war are still very much in evidence.

With best wishes to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

In a Japanese town 6 miles away
from Newchwang, Manchuria.

May 23, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

My intentions were to write you this letter from Muckden but ow-

ing to the wrong information imparted to me by a Japanese official interpreter, I have to wait here a whole day before I can proceed to that city.

Well, I send you two days ago a few small plants of sempervivum sp. which I collected May 13, 1906, on the famous 203 Meter Hill near Port Arthur. I wish you would give them to Mr. J. N. Rose of the National Museum, he is very interested in succulents and may be able to identify them. They may even have a horticultural value too, or at least, they can be utilized in rockery work.

I also delivered a box with seeds to the office of the China Forwarding and Express Company at Newchwang, this box to be sent to the Quartermaster of the U. S. Army who will forward it to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C.

There is a nice quantity of dry rice seed in that box, so the gentleman in Oregon of whom you wrote me may be able to experiment now. There are also eight varieties of beans in, which I didn't collect before. No. 256a, a large black soy bean, which is green inside, seems to be very rare. I hope you will keep samples of all these beans in glass bottles, just a few, so that you may be able to compare them. I myself would like to do so, too, but helas, I haven't the s pace to spare to carry allsuch things around with me.

When you write me again I wish you could inform me whether Prof. Sargent and Mr. Jackson Dawson are alive yet. You must know that I sent both of them some letters and also shipped some parcels with cuttings to them but I never got an answer at all.

Then I have been asked here whether the Berseem you introduced from Egypt has been a success in the U.S. Well, I wasn't able to answer that question, so I hope you might give me some information.

I have also been asked about the the success of Nitro-cultures. Well, if there are some bulletins published about this question,

could you perhaps send me a couple or so?

Enclosed with this letter are the notes relating to the seeds and also the letter Mr. Thomas Sammons sent me in regard to the dry land rice. Perhaps you think them worth keeping.

I have notified the legation at Peking and the consulates at Shanghai and Newchwang to keep my mail until I got an address again, for, from now on it will be an exceedingly hard thing for mail to reach me. The mail routes in this part of the world were never known for great safety or for facilities; but now since the war, they surely haven't improved. Robberies are the order of the day and, of late, train passengers have been plundered out a great deal. A very strange land this.

I left my big trunk with my more valuable clothes and letters at the consulate in Newchwang for it would not pay me to lose everything in one stroke and besides that, the trunk is entirely too large for inland traffic; I also left the large box with unnecessary stationery behind for the same reasons.

With best regards to all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Liao-yang, Manchuria,

June 3, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

As you see by the date, I am now in this town which has become world-famous in consequence of the great battles fought in

its environs. I arrived here in the afternoon of June 1st, coming by carts from Mukden where I stayed six days.

But I'll start with the beginning. As you saw out of my letter which I wrote in a Japanese Inn near Newchwang on May 23, I was detained for one day there on account of being wrongly informed by an official Japanese interpretor. Well, the next morning I left by early train and arrived in the afternoon at Mukden in the midst of a howling dust storm which made us look like coal miners and made our eyes ache as if there was lime in them. Well, that dust storm kept on blowing for three days during which time one felt extremely uncomfortable, for the dust was all-penetrating and the accompanying dryness of the air made one's throat and nostrils parch and it also seemed to have an effect upon ones nervous system for one felt restless and out of sorts, as we say.

I visited the missionaries in Mukden and got quite some information considering the products of the country and about the native flora. Rev. Dr. Ross and Rev. Mr. Torley have transplanted quite a few wild plants in their gardens, among them a very small-fruited wild apple a few species of wild asparagus, different kinds of wild clematis, wild elderberries, and also that Sedge which I sent from Peking and which does excellently in this most uncongenial climate to plant growth for the winter starts early in Mukden and is very severe; the mercury goes as low as 30° below zero, Besides, that the rainfall is rather light, it practically only rains during the last part of June, during July and August and then it gets dry again and even in winter time there is little snow.

One can observe it on the plant growth in and around

Mukden; the only tree which thrives well is the small-leaved elm, but otherwise there are few trees that do well, thatis, in the city itself. Outside the town, going toward the north, one finds a nicely wooded park called the North Tomb and about ten miles to the East one finds a delightful piece of forest showing what a beautiful country this Manchuria must have been before these everlasting destructive Chinese took possession of it. In that piece of forest the East-tomb is situated where the remains of the first emperor of the Manchu dynasty are resting. That forest reminds one very much of the North American forests; that is, a large number of different species of trees grow all intermixed. The predominant trees are pines and there are very large specimens among them, then one finds large-leaved lindens, large-leaved celtis, oaks, gleditsias, poplars, clastrastis amurensis, and willows and of all these trees it seems to be only one species which is represented. Along the outskirts of the forest where the struggle for light and supremacy is not so fierce any more, one finds smaller trees with dense foliage like two kinds of choke cherries, one wild apple, one graceful cardinals cap (Euonimus sp.), Crataegus pinnatifida, two kinds of bush-honey suckle, bush willows, sambuscus racemosa, barberries and some shrubs which are unknown to me.

On account of the rather low degree of latitude, the light is quite intense and as a result the whole ground underneath the trees is carpeted with wild flowers. One finds there clematis in species, asparagus in species, lily of the valley, Solomon's seal in two species (Convallaria Polygonatum and Convallaria verticillatum) violets, different leguminous plants and quite some grasses and

sedges. Anemone chinensis occurs in many spots and the white dandelion, peculiar to Manchuria, grows all along the open roads. I forgot yet to mention the ash tree which occurs here and there, and the hazelnut which also is to be found in spots. A shrub with large tirfoliate leaves, looking like an Acanthopanax grows here and there in shady situations. To show you to what a large sizesome of the leaves of that linden tree grow, I picked a leaf of a young tree and it measured from tip to the base 12 inches while the breadth was exactly ten inches. Pretty large, isn't it? The tree seems to come very close to our silver linden (Tilia argentea). The large leaved celtis looks new to me and in fall I will collect a goodly supply of seeds if I happen to be here. I enclose a leaf of that tree. Perhaps it is well known already?

In the park around the North Tomb, which seems to have been laid out by man, one finds as a result more flowering shrubs and more ornamental trees than in the forest around the East Tomb. But, although I must admit that the bush honeysuckles were covered with delicate white flowers and that the hawthorns perfumed the whole air with their fragrance, still one doesn't find there as much variety as in the East Tomb grounds. Between the undergrowth, though, there are not less than four different species of asparagus growing wild, one of a pale green color which can be used in flower baskets and the like. A wild grapevine with very fragrant blossoms grew all over the place. They say it bears small berries and I heard contradictory statements about its edible qualities. One pity in the North Tomb grounds is that as all around Mukden many trees are nearly killed by the enormous bunches of mistletoes they

have to sustain. These mistletoes look like the ordinary Viscum-album, but instead of having white berries, they bear scarlet fruits in winter. Dr. Ross said they always remember him of holly and mistletoe at the same time. Miss Ross informed me that there was a mistletoe around that bore yellow berries instead of scarlet ones and she had seen one bunch in which one branch had yellow fruits while all the others had scarlet berries. If that mistletoe wasn't such a dangerous parasite, we might try to establish it as a curiosity in our parks, but still, it is too dangerous, for it seems to thrive on nearly all trees and it seems to kill the elms for some of these trees were really like brooms with green bunches of mistletoe in them.

A thing pleasing to me was to see the sedge No. 70a and b used as a lawn grass in the North Tomb and it formed a pretty good lawn under the 100 feet tall pines. That lawn must have been in existence for centuries, so that speaks well for it.

There is another lawn sedge in existence around Mukden, occurring also in the city wall, which is much finer than the first one. It thrives on sandy soils and remains much lower than the one sent, but it is really somewhat too fine for a lawn. When I am in Mukden this winter I will send it, though. On that city wall of Mukden there are a few more grasses in existence which may prove to be of use to us. I sent you a few flowering spikes of two of them. Perhaps you might be able to identify them.

In the inner courtyard of the North Tomb there are two very old conifers which the Chinese call cedar trees but although they look like Cedrus deodara, that couldn't be the case, so I take them for the rare Pseudolarix Kaempheri. They are both in a high

state of decay, but still, they must have been two noble trees fifty years ago.

In obtaining seeds of economic plants I haven't been very lucky yet. The seeds are all planted and some farmers that have seeds left are not willing to part with them because the aspects for a good crop are just now rather bad on account of the long-lasting drought. I got some hemp seeds but of poppy seeds I haven't been able as yet to get some. The crops here, too, are not so varied as one might think. Sorghum is the staple crop and beans run a close second. Small millet, too, is grown quite extensively and in the more sheltered localities winter wheat grows. I hope to come back here in late fall to get things.

Now these last two days I have been in and around Liao yang. Rev. G. Douglass and Rev. D. Westwater of the Scotch mission here have given me quite some information about the district around here. As a result of Mr. Douglass' labors I got me a small box of the dried pears of which Mr. Hosie speaks in his book on Manchuria and I also found the orchards where the trees grow. There are quite a few varieties of pears growing here. They seem to be nearly all of the hard varieties, though. They grow also grapes here which are buried, of course, in winter time. One variety seems to be new to us.

Then, on the city wall there is a small alfalfa growing which must be able to stand any amount of drought. In fall I will try to obtain seeds from it. It is remarkable so many plants there grow on these old city walls here in China. Yesterday I went botanizing on the wall here and I saw about thirty different species of plants, Among them were things like a wild asparagus, flowering

cherry, choke cherry, a kind of a sand-cherry, matrimony vine (Lycium chinense) Sophora japonica, small-leaved elms, two kinds of alfalfa, four species of grasses, three species of cruciferae, a dwarf Euonimus, etc., etc. Mr. Douglass told me that the Russians used to take their cows to the top of the wall to let them graze. Rather funny to hear, isn't it?

I hear from the missionaries that there is a rich district south from here in the mountains where rare trees occur. I hope to leave for it within a few days before I go to Antun.

Life here in Manchuria has a whole lot of less pleasant problems with it. The worst thing is the filthiness of the Inns. No matter what some authors say about the cleanliness of Manchurian Inns, my experience is that the interiors are somewhat better finished than around Peking and Tientsin but that they support a population so uncongenial to white men that I often curse their dirty yellow race. In this inn, now, where I sit on the brick bedstead while writing, I counted already not less than six different kinds of vermin, not all bad ones, of course, but still I am awake ever so many mintues of being bitten by one or another and of late I think the greatest ideal of a man is to have a clean vermin-proof bed. Another bad thing is to drink that everlasting tea. How delicious a glass of fresh clean water must be. I often think now, but--there is no clean water in China.

Then, I have the bother with my men about the money. This is a dear country and it seems that my guide and the coolie have been used to quite good living in Tientsin and of course they find out that they can't do it the same way here and the result is

they say they can't save a cent and have to spend every dime for food. Of course, that is simply a story. I know them too well already, but well, things are rather high here and I have to pay their lodgings, a thing which I never did with my former men, and as they prepare my food they steal enough of it to live on partly, at least, I find out that that occurs pretty frequent and what can one do against it? So you see that even a man here has the "servant problem." My guide is a good cook but in other matters his brightness is not exactly coming to the front and in obtaining seeds and handling the people diplomatically he is not a genius at all. I have been pulsing the missionaries to find me a brighter chap, but I haven't been successful as yet. I selected my men because they were strong chaps which I thought would include some bravery, too, but that is a thing very hard to find among these Chinese and now while we were in Mukden it came to their ears that a robber band had caught a Chinaman a hundred yards outside the city and that to make him give up his secrets they had roasted him above a fire. Well, my men wanted to go home to Tientsin and they were afraid to go out alone out of the city. Now I myself, when having been invited out to supper with some of the missionaries, come home rather late but I haven't had a single unpleasant meeting as yet, and even if I had I would face the music, but these Chinese--well, they are like children, that is all.

I send you herewith my accounts for the month of May. I can't get a consular or any other seal on them, so maybe they won't be considered good. Well, then, they come back!

I hope to get some mail in Antung, before I start the big journey through the wilderness.

With the best wishes to all, I am

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. Herewith I send you the small box of dried pears and the note belonging to it. Did you receive the letter in which I announced I had shipped a box with seeds to you in which there was a nice quantity of dry land rice?

Newchwang, Manchuria,

June 12, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Last night at one A.M. I arrived again in this city. Why? You will ask. Well, that is rather a funny dilemma in which I am now. You must know, namely, that my guide and the coolie have skipped out. In other words, they deserted me. And now I am here in this port again trying to get other men. In how far I will be successful here, I do not know as yet, but will see.

I will try to give you a few more details about this rather novel experience to me. As I wrote you from Liao-yang, I was going to visit a mountain district South of said city before going to Antung. Well, I went to these mountains and stayed there three days and a most wonderful district it is. There are even new varieties of trees there which I never have seen before. Well, about the botanical part later on.

Now, while being there I found that my guide was rather awkward, didn't want to go out, avoided work, etc. O, I thought, it is a little homesickness with him which will wear off again but on returning to Liaoyang I hinted to him that if he didn't take any interest in this work I would be obliged to get me another guide, for he was utterly dull and stupid these last weeks and now while I stayed that night with Dr. Westwater at Liaoyang, my two men simply disappeared without leaving a trace behind them and as I had paid them some wages in advance, I will be out quite some dollars. The next morning going around trying to find some trace of them I heard from one that they had gone to this city. As their homes are in Tientsin I think they have taken passage on a Chinese junk and are on the road to that city. I will write the police authorities there and have them arrested for that is no way of doing things. While talking to Mrs. Douglas, a lady missionary in Liaoyang, I found out that my guide told her servants that there were plenty of tigers in the mountains where we had been and that I had seen one and had run as fast as I could. Well, you will believe me when I tell you that that is as big a lie as could be imagined. In the first place, there are no tigers in summer time there and secondly, if one comes in these densely wooded regions upon a tiger one may be so close by that to run would be silly. He would catch one anyway. No, I carried a small tree trunk with me with many knots on it so I was armed enough to drive the wolfs off, which seem to be really the only wild animals which roam around in the summer time there. But I must admit that I only heard the growlings of them in the entangle-

ment of Actinidia vines and I saw the gnawed-off front feet of a small deer. There was also a hole underneath a large rock which most decidedly sheltered some animals in winter time but now it looked deserted, although there was a mud wall in front of it made by the digging out of the soil underneath that rock.

But I know easily how that tiger story came to be manufactured. The second day I cam home with torn clothes on account of having accidentally slid off some sharp rock with thorny tree growth and my legs were rather scratched. Well, they simply imagined that I had been chased around by a tiger for the priests in the temples have a firm belief in these animals and they told Dr. Westwater how a small boy was carried off by them some time ago.

Well, my guide told the missionary servants that if he had known it, that I would go to such regions, he wouldn't have gone for $100.00. Another thing I suppose that scared them was the fact that a few days before we arrived one Chinese officer was shot dead and four soldiers severely wounded by the so-called Hung-hutses, or these armed brigands which infest this whole country. This battle happened in the mountains East of Liao-yang, the district I have to pass through in going to Antung. Dr. Westwater who treated the men, told me that the wounds had been made by modern bullets and that the robbers must be excellent marksmen for the soldiers confessed that they hadn't seen a single robber, but that they were shot from the high hilltops.

Well, three or four days ago the Chinese troops caught happily the whole band of robbers which had made the neighborhood

of Mukden pretty unsafe of late. There were eleven men including the leader which proved to be a Japanese and although the ten Chinese were decapitated, the Jap was delivered to the headquarters of General Oyama, where he probably will be dealt with.

It seems that my work here in Manchuria is not proceeding as well as in other parts of China, but it is not my fault. It is not in my power to inspire my men with courage and with a love for travelling. Now, I paid the men high wages but yet they would rather desert one and return to their mud shacks and live in comparative poorness than to go around and see something of the world and get new experiences.

Well, now I will tell you something about these most glorious mountains south of Liaoyang. They are called by the missionaries "The Thousand Peaks," while the Chinese name is "Chien-shan" which means the 1000 mountains. The reason for calling them so is the fact that it really is a conglomeration of many steep mountains apparently thrown together in a rather limited area and in the distance the whole group looks like a gigantic saw, marked as a blue silhouette against the sky. Coming closer, one is amazed at the number of peaks rising up one after the other and with a little imagination and by not actually counting them one might easily think that there are really about a thousand peaks. But the most wonderful thing, from our point of view, is the extremely well-woodedness of the whole district. One simply stays amazed at the sight of such a dense arboreal vegetation; pines, oaks, lindens, walnuts, wild pears, wild apricots, ashes, willows, gleditsias,

poplars, lots of different kinds of shrubs, a dense undergrowth, this all grows mixed or in groups all over the mountainsides or in the ravines.

I once saw the statement somewhere that the Appalachian Mountains in North Carolina were the most densely wooded mountains in the world, but not having seen these last mentioned mountains as yet, I can't say anything about it, but these Chien shan mountains here are certainly one of the most densely wooded sections that I ever saw. If the photos turn out satisfactorily I hope to be able to show this fact in the way the eye of the camera caught it.

Of new trees in these mountains I didn't see so very much. Still, there are a few utterly unknown to me. For instance, there is a variety or a species of elm which has instead of the ordinary elliptical leaves, from three to five tops on each leaf. It probably is a variety which may be appreciated by nurserymen as a novelty.

Then, there grows a catalpa wild, which does not seem to be any of the catalpas I know.

There is also a large-leaved dogwood (Cornus) but there was only one specimen I came across in all my wanderings and it is growing in such a difficult-to-reach ravine and one has to crawl through a mile or so of Actinidia vines that I am not so sure of finding it again.

In willows there are two kinds which can be used as ornamental trees and they look new to me. One is a semi-weeping variety entirely different from the ordinary weeping willow. I came across only three trees of it.

There is a nice small growing honey-locust (Gleditsia)

one kind of a very ornamental ash tree, then the Sophora-like tree met before in the East Tomb forest near Mukden and which is new to me.

The remarkable thing in these Chien-shan mountains is the fact that every ravine has a vegetation more or less of its own and so one finds one ravine full of shrubbery like spiraeas, mock-oranges and scrub ashes, intermixed with beautiful white flowered paeonies. In another ravine, though, one finds exclusively Actinidia (A. Kolomikta?) growing over a few Manchurian walnuts and over some Phellodendron amurense, and that Actinidia grows in such an entangled mass that one is quite exhausted when going through it for a mile or so. It is a beautiful sight, though, to overlook such a mass of green from the top of a tree or from the head of a ravine.

In one hollow I found nearly nothing but elms in varieties; in another, again, mostly large leaved lindens, while in some very shady spots a bush occurred with elongated drooping white buds and with somewhat curious shaped leaves seeming to come very close to our native papaws (Asimina triloba).

Yes, coming to the word "native," I must admit that these forests remind one strikingly of home, i.e., North America. Even the large pinnated leaves of the American sumacs which give the native North American flora such a semi-tropic aspect in summer occur here too, but not as sumac leaves. Not is is the large leaf on the shoots sprouting from the cut-off stumps of Juglans Manchurica or they are the young trees sprouting from the nuts.

I herewith give you a list of the plants which I saw there:

Trees and Shrubs and Woody Climbers

Oaks - 3 and 4 species

Lindens - 2 species

Willows - 3 and 4 species

Walnut - 1 specie & 1 variety

Spiny elm - 1 specie

Apples - 1 specie

Grapevines - 4 and 5 species

Actinidia - 2 species

Hazelnuts - 2 species

Lilacs - 1 specie

Weigela - 1 specie

Sophora japonica - 1 sp & 1 var.

Catalpa - 1 specie

Phellodendron amurense

Celastrus - 2 species

Azalea - 2 species

Pueraria Thunbergiana Rosa -1 sp.

Juglans mandshurica Gleditsia -1 sp.

Ailanthus glandulosa Rhamnus -2 sp.

Philadelphus - 2 species.

Sambucus racemosa Rubus - 1 sp.

Ashes - 3 species

Maples - 2 species

Pines - 1 specie

Elms - 2 species and several var.

Pears - many varieties

Apricot - 1 specie & different var.

Choke cherry - 1 specie

Celtis - 2 species

Birches - 1 specie, 1 variety

Spiraeas - 3 species

Poplars - 2 species

Chestnut - 1 specie

Crataegus pinnatifida - sev. var.

Aralia - 2 species

Acanthopanax - 2 species

Cornus - 1 specie

Viburnum - 1 specie

Berberis - 2 species

Papaw-like shrub - 1

Sophora-like tree - 1

Herbaceous plants (Incomplete)

Paeonies - 1 sp.

Lilium - 2 sp.

Dictamnus Frasunella, the 4 Convallarias, i.e. C. majalis, C. polygonatum, C. multiflorum, C. verticullatum and another one much

stronger than the last one but otherwise much the same.

Clematis - 3 and 4 sp.	Hoteia japonica.
Delphiniums in sev. sp.	Sedum - 3 sp.
Semper-vivum - 2 sp.	Selaginella - 3 sp.
Lathyrus - sev. sp.	Aristolochia - 1 sp.
Dioscarea guinqueloba	Myasotis - 2 sp.
Compositae - many sp.	Ferns - 5 sp.

and a host of other things more or less conspicuous.

I was not in the best time for the herbaceous stuff. It was too early yet, but there seem to be very ornamental things among them.

The lists are very incomplete for I would have to stay there many weeks and do a lot of hard exploring work and would have to be there earlier and later, too, but still, it may give you an idea how very rich the flora is in these Chien shan mountains, and especially in trees and in shrubs.

If nothing overtakes me in this strange, dangerous country, I hope to send a whole lot of material this winter from that region.

Herewith I beg to acknowledge the receipt of three letters from you dated April 11, April 27, and April 28. I was glad again to get some news though it was short, but I do realize that you have far too much administrative labour. You ought to get a couple of good assistants.

Yes, I hope to see your hillside with its cherries and maples. When shall it be, though? If my vision comes true, I will be at ease the end of the year, but what ease will it be? All

jokes put aside, this country is just now in a rather peculiar condition and while travelling in the interior one may run up against strange things.

About the Jujubes, in regard to the inquest of Mr. Ford of Waco, Texas, I may say that the Chinese take apparently very little care in curing this fruit. Outside of letting them dry in flat baskets in the sun and then putting them in big baskets out of which they are sold to the customer, they do nothing to them. It seems, though, that there exists in Sesschuan a superior Jujube which could be utilized in America as a fine table delicacy and which is packed in boxes. The ordinary jujube is rather coarse and is not really fit to become an American delicacy except for the very poor classes. I will be on the lookout though for any good varieties or any curing methods superior to the ones mentioned above. In one of my last letters I also mentioned about steaming them, etc. You probably received that letter long ago, didn't you?

In the second letter, April 27, I see yours and Mr. Van Fleet's notice about the Fragaria filipendula. Well, the only strawberry I came across as yet is that worthless F. indica which grows as a weed in the Yang-tse valley. Mr. Van Fleet says it grows in the mountains of North west China. Could he perhaps give some closer defined locality?

And about Rubus, too. I didn't come across many Rubus, but going farther north I am bound to see more.

The last letter, April 28, brings me the welcome news that the rushes arrived O.K. That's good, for it would have been

a pity if all that work had been done in vain.

Now, I am looking for your long letter which you say will come soon. I hope it comes before I have left this port, where I am busily engaged in trying to find me new men, a most difficult job, I'll tell you that.

Well, I conclude with best wishes to you all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Newchwang, Manchuria,

May 19, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Yesterday I came back from Port Arthur and Dalng where I had been to obtain a written permit and to get information in regard to the country.

Well, to say that I have been entirely successful would say too much. The more I have dealings with the Japanese, the more I get confirmed that they are the shrewdest, diplomatical nation on the face of the globe. Their policy is one of secrecy, suspiciousness, and of letting outsiders as much in the dark as possible.

Well, I will try to give you some details of my trip. As this whole country is still in the grip of the military administration, no foreigner is allowed to travel without a pass, so after some talks and some correspondence I obtained one from the

authorities and an English gentleman, Mr. E. Cotes, correspondent for the Daily Mail was so lucky too. We both and our Consuls were invited for lunch with Col. Yokura, the Administrator of the city of Newchwang, and in the evening of the same day (May 11, 1906) we left the railroad station at about nine O'clock, while the rain was pouring down as fast as possible. I must say the Japanese had given us quite a few advices; that is, showing our passes when asked for, to go to the proper authorities, etc., but they had failed to tell us to take blankets and food with us, and as the trip lasted 18 hours we were rather inconvenienced. Still, we were able to pick up here and there some food, but as the night on account of the rain and wind proved to be unusually cool and our clothes were not of the heaviest material, we didn't have the best of comfort.

The next day, Saturday, May 12, we arrived at 3 P.M. in Port Arthur and we waited upon by an official interpretor and we had to show our passes and had to tell with what intentions we came to Port Arthur! (Just as if they didn't know more about purposes than we did ourselves). We were shown our hotel and had to wait then, until the authorities notified us at what time they could receive us. Well, in the evening a letter came telling us that we were expected the next morning at 10 A.M.

So on Sunday morning we went to the Chief of the Staff, General Major J. Ochiai, and after some talks we were told that they would allow us to see some points of interest around Port Arthur. I personally interviewed the General about the obtaining of a

written permit to travel through Manchuria, but I was informed that at the present the areas through which foreigners are allowed to travel are very limited, not because of the unwillingness of the Japanese. Oh, no, it was robber bands which made life and property very unsafe and the Japanese Government could not undertake to run the danger of letting a foreigner go in the country without being able to protect him and then if some accident overtook him to get into international difficulties.

As I knew this diplomatical excuse for I am not the first one to whom they told it, I didn't go any farther on it, but I asked if the Japanese had full control of Northern Korea and whether I would be allowed to travel there, upon which questions the General gave an affirming answer. I was asked to draw up a route of travel and send it in the next day, which I did.

Now, it was a somewhat diplomatical stroke of me to get first an assurance of being allowed to travel in Northern Korea for you must know that up in Northern Korea near the source of the Yalu and the Tumen Rivers there are reported to exist valuable forests which are being cut down in a hurry by the Japanese so as to get as much out of the country as long as it is in their possession. Well, if I can reach these forest before too much is cut down, I may be able to find new and valuable lumber and ornamental trees growing in a climate very much like that of the northern part of the United States.

On Monday evening the official interpretor wanted to see me and wanted to take my maps with him so as to get the right way

of writing the names of places I had mentioned. He also assured me that my route of travel had been looked over and I would be permitted to go that way and the next day I would receive my permit.

Well, the next day I went up to the head office and to my disgust I found out that I was allowed to travel from Mukden to Antung (that is at the mouth of the Yalu River) but they couldn't give me further permit as it didn't belong to their territory, but they had wired the governor of Korea and by the time I arrived in Antung I would find an answer waiting there. Now, I will see how they will act. It seems, as if they have suspicions as if some other purpose was in mind, for when I said that I would wait in Port Arthur until an answer was received, they said it was better that I first proceeded to Mukden. It seems that they want plenty of time in all these dealings, for it is already months ago when we first applied for permission. The rumors are around that the military and the civil administrations are not too friendly with one another and that the last one would allow more liberties but that the first one resents that. But to tell you the truth, Mr. Fairchild, I personally believe that they themselves have strewn these rumors around so as to keep the foreigners out as long as possible, and if it hadn't been for the pressure of certain foreign powers, these ports that have been opened now, like Antung and Tatung, would be closed yet, for the Japanese have been fooled out of this country once ten years ago but this time they are bound to stay and their merchants, soldiers, gamblers, even coolies, are found all over and their merchants prove to be most severe competi-

tors to all races, but to the Chinese especially.

It seems that Japanese business methods are not altogether straight and I found out some things myself in that way. I had asked General Ochiai to allow me to take some photos and he had given his consent under the condition that we ask the officer in charge of a certain point to obtain his permission. But now as soon as we left, the order was given that no photos are allowed to be taken by the foreigners. Of course, we rather felt insulted at such a treatment. If Mr. Ochiai had said, "Gentlemen, I am very sorry, but we couldn't allow any photos to be taken," then we would have felt all right, but to do it this way is not as we occidentals are accustomed to.

Well, now my intentions are to leave within a few days for Mukden by train, then to hire carts there and proceed over Liaoyang which is reported to be a good fruit and grain district, right through the mountains to Antung on the mouth of the Yalu River. If I am allowed permission there, I will travel along the Yalu River up to its source (the Pei shan Mountain range) then from there along the Tumen river to its mouth. At the sources of these rivers very nice forests and wooded slopes are known to exist and when I saw Prof. Sargent at Boston last summer, he told me that he personally considered Northern Korea as an excellent field for exploration work. When I arrive in safety and good health at the mouth of the Tumen River, I will proceed to Vladivostock and there I will probably find a cablegram or letters telling me to return or to stay. If I am to stay, my intentions are to travel northward along the Ussuri River to the point where it flows in the Amur, then follow this river and go southwest by the Sungari to Charbin and

then I don't know yet. If they allow me to pass through, I will go over Kirin to Mukden and then back to Peking, but I hardly think I will be allowed to get through because there is a strip of land there called neutral zone and both the Russians and the Japanese want to get control of it. Just now there isn't one white man allowed to pass through, and as they have over a year's time yet to withdraw their armies, I may not see the time to creep through. I will try, though.

Today I had a talk with a gentleman who has been in the Valleys of the Amur, the Sungari and the Ussuri, and he said the amount of fine forests of beautiful shrubbery and of wild plants there is amazing. He added, though, that the Russians were cutting the lumber very fast and he said also that travelling there isn't encouraged by the Russian authorities and that in most points, the country is remarkably lonesome. Well, we will see.

During my stay in Port Arthur and Dalny, I saw a few plants which may be fit to be used in America. As a small tree in shrubbery beds the Russians had planted the Xanthoxylon ailanthoides and it is well worth growing in our city parks. Then, there were beautiful small flowered lilacs of quite an uncommon type, I should say, far more graceful than our lilacs, also some maples and linden trees which I do not know and which made good underwood beneath taller trees. Then there are some poplar trees in the big park in Dalny which have drooping branches and are very good for park trees. They also use a shrub for hedges which is as yet unknown to me. There were some seeds on them which I will send shortly. The most common tree in Port Arthur and Dalny is the yellow or black locust

(Robinia pseud-acacia). This is planted all over. The Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus glandulosa) comes next and then poplars and willows follow third and fourth. In Port Arthur they have a few nice young specimens of Paulownia imperialis and against some of the houses there were fine white wistarias in bloom. Just now the Japanese are very busy in planting evergreens in front of the large military buildings, but it is rather sad to see that they selected the wrong kinds of trees, for they plant mostly different species and varieties of the genus Retinospora. I even saw Olea fragrans and Podacarpus chinensis planted, two plants which surely will not stand the dry summer heat or the practically snowless winter. As a deciduous shade tree they are planting large specimens of sterculia platanifolia. As long as the mercury doesn't drop too much, this tree may live, but I saw one specimen planted by the Russians some years ago and it was entirely winter killed by last year's cold. They told me that it gets once in a while 15° below zero in Port Arthur.

The mountains near Port Arthur and near Dalny are practically devoid of any trees or shrubbery save a few clumps of scrub oak or some scattered specimens of dwarf pines, but now the Japs have taken up the problem of reforesting these barren mountains and I was told they have planted already one million pine trees. I had a look over these newly planted mountainsides. As yet things do not look very promising. Many young trees have died. I think the main trouble is that all these young trees are grown in the moist air of Japan and this peninsula where Port Arthur and Daly

are situated is very dry and stony, so the trees wither before they have time to be established. But, of course, in a case of reforesting one cannot judge finally by one year's work so I hope to see this country again after say five years.

There is also an experimental garden established by the Russians in Dalny. Now the Japanese have taken over the charge and among the personnel of the garden there wasn't one who could talk any language but his own, save one or two words of English, so I couldn't get any information there. One very strange thing struck me, i.e., that they were pruning their young fruit trees while they had already set the young fruits. It was rather disgusting to see the young trees mutilated the way they had. I told them it was a very bad thing to do, but apparently they thought it all right. It seems that they have Chinese coolies in employ and I know the Chinese too well already for their love of cutting every thing down which is burnable and in the fine large park of Port Arthur they have ruined already the young poplar trees and the locusts by cutting away all the side branches. And these trees were just planted by the Russians as windbreaks on the windy sides. A look in the rubbish enclosure confirmed my opinion, for there I saw stacked up a big pile of the tied-up bunches of branches of shrubbery and of trees.

I would not say that a stay in a conquered country is very pleasant to me. Take a city like Dalny. The way the city is built is entirely like the white man builds, beautiful stone and brick houses, well paved roads, shade trees in the yards, nice clean surroundings, in one word, a model town, but in vain I looked for

a fellow white man. Behind the large glass windows one saw the yellow faces press their noses to see the white man. I am generally taken for a Russian down here and one often sees them laugh when I pass, for you must know that the yellow race feels a contempt for the white man after this miserable war when the worst white race got beaten by the best yellow one. Of course, I don't care for their contempt, for one sees every time how anxious they are to imitate us or catch a glance of our eyes.

While in Port Arthur I climbed the famous 203 Meter Hill upon whose slopes so much innocent blood was spilled. I found there all kinds of relics like exploded and unexploded shells and cartridges, pieces of clothing and even bones of men who had fallen there. On one spot I saw a coat of a Russian sailor and by picking it up the bones fell out! Then walking over some spots one felt the soil sink in beneath his feet indicating a grave for a poor fellow. Truly when one sees all these things one must say, "War is Hell." And this 203 Meter Hill might be called "The Hill of Sad Memories." I was told that it has cost 10,000 Japanese lives to get this hill. Awful, isn't it? And yet the skies were dark blue and hills were purple in the distance and the Siberian Edelwies was in snowy garb and here and there a Sempervivum was peeping through some pieces of rock. Nature knows not of human sorrow.

Before I leave Newchwang for good I hope to send you a box with seeds, among it a big bag of dry land rice which Consul-general Mr. Th. Sammons was kind enough to obtain for us from a friend of his, the Magistrate of Hai tcheng. Mr. Sammons has been

very kind to me and has assisted me in many ways in getting the passes, etc., from the Japanese authorities.

In a former letter you wrote me that if the Japanese wouldn't allow me to travel through Manchuria I had to send full particulars so that if necessary the Secretary of State could take the matter up. Well, as you have seen by their answer that the robber bands are making the country unsafe, we can do very little against that. If highly pressed they would perhaps allow me to go all through the country, but of course, in such a case they would say, "We disclaim any responsibility for the explorer's safety," and then I would be sure to get into trouble as soon as I had entered a district where they didn't want me. At least, merchants with whom I am acquainted have had experiences of this kind. So I think we had better let the matter stand as it is. A thing, though, that would be pleasant to me would be an official letter of introduction to the Russian authorities in Russia and approved by the Russian ambassador at Washington. Also, if I am kept out here any longer in the oriental field to have a Chinese and a Japanese letter of introduction also approved by the respective embassadors at Washington. These things will give me better standing in these countries.

Did I mention the fact in my last letter about the receipt of the dozen pruning shears? Yes, I got them all right and made already a few people glad with one.

Well, when I send the seeds I will send you another letter and as this one consists already of 15 pages you may say, "Good Heavens, does that man think that we have nothing else to do than

to read these pages,?"

So I conclude with best wishes to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Newchwang, Manchuria,

June 14, 1906.

Dear Mr. Pieters:

It was a great pleasure to me to receive your welcome letter of April 29. You were wondering where I should get it. Well, this time it proves to be in Newchwang, where I am really quite by accident. You must know that my guide and coolie deserted me on account of their fears for tigers and robbers and Heavens knows for what more fears. I wrote the details of it to Mr. Fairchild, so I had better not go into it further this time.

Now I am here, trying to get me new men in which I haven't been successful as yet, but I am in good hopes and when I can't get them here I will go to Chefoo for the importance of the work justifies a little extra trouble and exertion.

Yes, you are right in that respect, that I will talk about my experiences here with a great deal more pleasure when I am out of the country, as just at the present I appreciate your kind words concerning my peaceful disposition very much but do you know, Mr. Pieters, that if I was the reverse I probably would have been done away with

already; so it is simply a matter of necessity to be patient and peaceful and diplomatic, so really there is not so much praise coming to me for in my heart I sometimes get quite angry at these people, especially, when one is treated in the way I experienced now, notwithstanding I was a good master to my men.

You speak about the Budhist religion of the Chinese. Well, really there is mighty little of religion of any kind among the Chinese. They are as a whole too material and too practical a race to give these matters much attention and Buddhism so far as it exists in China is of a rather low kind. John Chinaman always thinks that one man alone hasn't got the power to do all things and so in his Buddhist temple he has beside different statues of Budha, also scores of other gods like the God of Rain, of Prospertiy, of War, of Wisdom. Well, I don't know, but I can tell you that there are temples in which one finds not only Buddha images, but also those of Lao-tse, of Kwan-yin and of Kwang fu tse (Confucius) so you see they get the whole bunch together. What the one can't accomplish the other may. In a famous temple near Hanchow which I also visited there are not less than 500 gods or at least statues of beings that are supposed to have special powers over certain things. There are, however, Buddhists in China of a purer character but I didn't come in contact with him as yet.

Just now there is a wave of unbelief in these gods passing over North China and in the big city of Pooting foo they have cleared some temples out and thrown the gods in the river or burned them. You must know that they needed the temples for schools and so the

gods had to go. And in Tientsin the other day the Chief of Police issued a proclamation requesting the Chinese to stop from their silly practices of going to shrines and making costly pilgrimages to idols from which they could not receive any help or wisdom.

How far Christianity will get hold on the masses, I don't know, but as the hold is getting less already on the white races, one can't expect it to catch hold on these yellow men.

Well, now from this really unagricultural topic, upon our own lines again. I see with pleasure that several of my introductions are doing so well. I wouldn't mind it a bit to see them now and then myself. You say Mr. Oliver is making so many crosses, but please why should he work with Helianthus or with Poas? Is there a demand for larger sunflowers or for quicker grown grasses?

As you probably will see or have seen already in the letter to Mr. Fairchild, I found a whole lot of trees and shrubs in the beautiful Chien shan mountains south of Liao yang. It is one of the most beautiful regions I have seen as yet. If the Chinese government was more enlightened, they ought to make it a national park where no man would be allowed to cut trees down, which they are doing already sadly and I am afraid that this beauty, too, will have disappeared some day, like so much here in China. If one begins to think of all the plants that have been exterminated here in China and what beautiful things there might have been among them one feels very sad.

A novelty to me in the mountains was to see beautiful white paeonies growing wild between scrub growth and on grassy spots or to see a snowball (Birunum opulus) overhang a creek bed

and give the impression as if some artist had planted it there, By the way, these snowballs, although single, are far more brilliant white than those in cultivation. The virgin soil and fresh mountain air may account for it.

Yes, I see much but I have to keep a whole lot of things in my memory, too, for you see, the noticing of a plant is only an easy thing, but to remember the exact locality and then to get cuttings or scions are by no means so easy. Of the elm with semi-polmate leaves, about which I wrote to Mr. Fairchild, there were only two specimens to be found, both way up in a very steep ravine, but I think I can find them easily again.

About finances, I hope the Department received my vouchers, furthermore I won't say anything about this side of exploration work, but I expect some facilitation.

Yes, your photo and letter I received. Didn't you get my letter? I hope so.

By this time you probably returned again from the Pacific Coast. Wasn't the sight of the scenes of destruction in Frisco and surrounding cities sickening? I saw some photos the other day of effects of the quake and the fire, but it must have been appalling.

Well, to everything comes an end, even to a sheet of Japanese paper, so I hereby conclude with best of regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Newchwang, Manchuria,

June 14, '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Herewith I beg you to acknowledge the receipt of 2 letters, vis. April 20 and April 24.

Well, first of all, I am glad you escaped there any effects of the 'quake which must have been so terrible on poor old 'frisco. Details reach us now and then and the pictures too. But they are starting already to rebuild the city; well, I hardly think I would like to live in the place; a thing of that kind is liable to occur again. It is more or less like living near a crater, an outburst may occur or it may not, nobody knows.

Yes, you say that the stamps probably got off. Well, Mr. Dorsett, I would examine the glue on the stamps of your Chico office for on your letter of April 20 there were no stamps at all, so the Legation people seem to have paid 50¢ Mex. and on the letter of April 24 there is only one 5 ct. stamp and I saw the cipher 25 on it, so they must have paid that amount.

Why I didn't return your letters, well, you may easily understand that firstly letters are not so plentifull and 2ndly they may contain too important a message to be so silly as to return them, simply for want of postage.

So you kept quite some seeds out of that box of seeds, well I wonder whether they will like it at Washington, because they never wrote me a word of sending things first to you and as a result I only send you the things of which it is decidedly better that they come to your station.

So the citrus seeds arrived in good shape, now we'll see the germinating point of that paraffine treatment and then we might try it on seeds which perish easier yet, like mangoes or mangosteens or cocoa beans.

And the rushes you got now too, so now 2 of your 3 wishes are gratified; that is the yang-taw and the rush. The Manchurian walnut has to be sent yet, but the trees have just been found by me in their wild state in the mountains S. of Liao-yang and by going farther into the interior yet, I am bound to find more, so keeping alive and well, I hope to send a lot of them this fall.

I am very glad that the material is mostly doing well. So I am not as flat a failure in shipping as was thought at first. I even see that you do not see any difference between tinpacked stuff and that on the ordinary way. And altho Mr. Fairchild too wrote me that he thought it a mistake to omit the tin cases, I haven't heard from him a word about the tincases which I shipped. The case is as I stated first, n.l. that it is not the tincase but it is the enormous distance and the keeping cool of the things. These 2 things mainly determine whether a cutting arrives dead or alive. The right kind of moisture too is a factor, but it seems that some packages retain moisture better than others do. Well, I would like to see the stuff grow. Your territory there must be getting pretty full already, aint it?

I see with regret that your mother too is far from well. Let me hope things have improved by this time; you would miss her too much, especially now.

Yes, my own health is all right again, but just now I am in rather a bad fix. My guide and the coolie have deserted me in Liao-yang, on account of their fears for tigers and for robbers and so

I am left alone, but of course I am moving heavens and earth to get me new men and I have hopes to find some before long. Yes, this work is somewhat connected with difficulties, but it is worth it.

So P.P. got himself some more land. Lordy, what can he do with it? For his quinquats perhaps? By the way, I see in a letter dated 1995, that this fruit was used locally in Santa Ana during a riot to stone the outlaws that tried to break thro the 20 ft. high wall that surrounds the P.P. property and that the effect was terrible, many outlaws loosing eyes, noses, teeth, etc., and one soft-skulled man was killed right on the spot, one of the fruits having pierced through the skull into the poor devil's brains. The U. S. Dept. of War has obtained the right to buy the whole output for 5 years to come and will experiment with it in shelling Filipino villages.

The pea-wall, another fruit of which great expectations were raised, has proven to be a failure, overwatering has killed them all; but the tom-crab is a <u>howling</u> success. Children that have partaken of them can be heard wailing for miles around and it is used now all over the country to be given as a last refuge when castor oil or Aloe fail to have any effect. The P.P. descendants have patented of the fruit and the exact way it was obtained, so no plant breeder dares anymore to try crosses, out of which tom or other crabbs may appear.

As a result of all these valuable crosses the garden where the diff. things grow is protected night and day by a batallion of cavalry whose orders are to shoot down anyone attempting to peep

thro a possible crack in the iron-clad door. The grateful citizens of Santa Ana and surrounding country have erected a cucumbershaped monument in honor of P.P. with the inscriptions: Let his memory be as green as a cucumber. And on the other side: Here rest the Director of the Universal Plant Introduction and Improvement Garden who ransacked this earth and all the planets surrounding it and who changed the climate of Santa Ana so as to grow there any fruit, tree, and blossom that is known to exist here or elsewhere.

The everlasting grateful
citizens of Santa Ana
and surrounding Country.

Well, Mr. Dorsett, if I hadn't written such a long letter to Mr. Fairchild about the beautiful mountains S. of Liao-yang, where at least 50 diff. species of trees and shrubs grow, I would like to tell you too something about it, but I better wait until I find another rich district, then you will hear something about it.

I remain now with best regards to All,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER

Liao-yang, Manchuria

June 21, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

This time I am in Liao-yang again, after an eight days' stay in Newchwang in order to get me another guide and coolie to replace the two that deserted me. I had quite some trouble to get them, for it seems that the average Chinaman is paralyzed with fear when he thinks of going away a couple of days from his home. Well, I will see how things go with these men; the guide is much more intelligent but the coolie doesn't seem to be a professor in mathematics; I had to pay more, too, not exactly in monthly salaries, but I have to take all their feeding and lodging on me.

Tomorrow we hope to leave by carts for Antung and go through some very interesting districts, that is, from a botanical point of view. Some missionaries told me that although they had not seen anything of the country since the late war they didn't think that everything would have been cut down and that some years ago there were very strange trees and plants in the mountains southeast from here and northwest of Antun. And around Antung itself there are said to be gardens where they raise vegetables for seeds only. One man who came from that city said that things grew to a much larger size there than anywhere else. There may be a little "Kansas Pride" in his statements but it is worth finding out.

I received your letters of May 8 and 10. I see with regret that the Juncus didn't arrive in good shape after all, but

perhaps they haven't all perished and if all of yours are gone, those I sent to Chico seem to be in better shape.

I also see your notices about weevils and caterpillars. Well, as you may understand, I am not able to get them all out of the seeds. If I had a settled station I would fumigate them, but that is pretty well impossible under the present conditions, so I think you had better do it at Washington and Mr. Dorsett at Chico.

There is an enormous number of beetles, caterpillars, flies, etc., here in China and some may prove to be very destructive when introduced.

When I was in the Chien san mountains some of the large Manchurian walnuts were looking like skeleton trees on account of a small jumping beetle having eaten out all the green of the leaves, only the veins were left. Then, of the white paeonies and the spiraeas all the flowers in some localities were eaten away by a large bronze beetle and on the mock orange bushes one saw here and there a somewhat larger variety than ours of the red spider. Now at this time the apricots and small bush cherries are brought in for sale, but many of the apricots have a tiny orange-colored worm in them, probably the larvae of a moth. So there are plenty of bad bugs here in this land.

Today we are having some thunder storms but otherwise it has been pitifully dry here and the early crops are considered as ruined. Yesterday I got some small quantities of seeds of the early long red and early long white turnip. These are medium-sized varieties which are mostly eaten stewed, but they can be

served also raw and sliced, to be eaten as a relish.

Just now I would like to see how different things are doing in America. Altogether it is already quite a collection and I heard from different friends that some things are doing well.

In Antung, I expect some mail and when alive and well I will report things from there.

With best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P. S. The flies are so bad these days that one hardly knows how to escape them so I make my letter short, for they sting one pretty bad.

Antung, Manchuria,

July 5, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I send you my accounts for the month of June; also the salary vouchers of which I enclose four, for reason that the first one may not be considered right.

A long letter will follow soon. I had expected quite some mail here, but to my great disappointment there is none at all here. I hardly know now what to do. Still, I hope to proceed again within a few days. I really need a new appropriation for these coming months. Did you send perhaps a wire message to

Vladivostock? I wired the day before yesterday to Peking for information regarding mail. I haven't had an answer as yet.

My trip from Liaoyang right through the mountains to Antung was quite interesting, though pretty strenuous. I got lost one night in the mountain wilderness and as these regions are infested with tigers, bears, and wolves, I didn't spend a comfortable time.

The rainy season has set in and the state of the roads is better to imagine as to describe. I found different trees and shrubs unknown to me, one a very ornamental one, an Oleaceae with large white fragrant panicles (Syringa amurensis).

I also send to you the unused transportation requests. Please have them delivered to the right person.

Well, later on more. With best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Antung, Manchuria,

July 5, '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Herewith I beg to announce to you the receipt of your letter of May 13. I hear with regret that the rushes reached you in bad shape. I only thought the "Koba" was overheated, but that the rushes were all right. Well, if totally dead, I'll bring new ones with me when I return to America at the beginning of next year, what I hope will be realized.

Just now a big envelope is brought in and I see there are 2 letters in it from you dated April 27 and May 7. Well, Mr. Dorsett

don't you overstrain yourself in writing too much.

Thank you for your S. F. paper and the clipping. My, my, it must be there. What a blessing that you people escaped everything. I hope Burbank is alive and unhurt. Who could ever have imagined that such a thing would happen in that blessed country called California.

Well, the people take their loss bravely and are going to rebuild the city nobler and better again.

Your mother still sick, poor Mr. Dorsett. You have your shares too in all kinds of hardships. I can only wish that she speedily recovers and may be spared until your children do not need so many more attentions.

I see that some cuttings were pushing much when received. Well, it got too warm already these days in Shanghai. Maybe I can obtain new ones this winter. This pleasing tho that the paraffine-packed seeds seem to be in good shape; that may give us a clue to ship perishable seeds from far away regions.

You think Manchuria may be a pleasanter country as what China proper is. Well let us hope so anyway. I personally know that in Manchuria one finds at least more original growth of vegetation as in China, but otherwise conditions are also very strange. There is one thing tho', which adds zest to the work here and that is, that this is a dangerous country. The morning knows not whether the evening will see one alive. Of course that is true to all of us, but it surely is of greater significance here than elsewhere.

Yes, as I wrote you, I received your letter in which you said about the box with seeds that you took quite a few things out. The

agricultural implements that you sent to Washington, isn't it? I hear very little from Washington. It seems that Mr. Fairchild has too much work to answer my questions. Well, when I return I'll have to find out myself that 's all. I would like tho' to have a look over the stuff I sent in already. I hope the country wont regret the expenses made for it. It does do me good to hear that Mr. Pieters is so well satisfied with your work and the garden at Chico and that he also is gratified with my humble labors. Yes, Mr. P., tho not having travelled so extensively as others knows better how to appreciate one's efforts as some others do.

I see with surprise about P.P. at Santa Ana. I thought that man had such a hold upon the Secr'yor some other people at the capital that they would leave him alone, untill the very list. Well, if Mr. Pieters is able to clear his place up, it will save the country a whole lot of money which can be spent much better elsewhere. I think that P. P. may go in the sulphur bath business or something else, he got some money so what does he care. He expected it anyway, but Mr. Dorsett, I think he will attribute these things to you, don't you feel so too? Is Mark coming to you?

Well now a little about my life these last days. As you saw from my letter posted in Newchwang, I was deserted by my guide and coolie. Well, after a whole lot of bother, I got me 2 new men, which have stuck as yet to me. The guide is an intelligent, honest chap, but the coolie is a doubtful character. I wouldn't say bad, no not that, but one can't depend upon him. I am afraid I'll have to exchange him pretty soon for a better fellow.

After I got me these new men, we proceeded up to Liaoyang again

and from there we have been travelling 10 days by Chinese carts over awful bad roads until we arrived here in Antung 2 days ago.

Some of the country we passed thro is most beautiful. On both sides of the roads mountains rise up, one above the other and one crosses time upon time beautiful little streams whose banks are lined with willows, poplars, alders, etc. Along the roads, white fragrant clematis, orange lilies. pink roses, and here and there delicate ferns gladden one's heart. In one valley I passed thro' a remarkable fine grove of tall, Manchurian walnut. Farther down again a while section was occupied with wild catalpas. And then there are large birches, large and small-leaved oaks, spruces, pine trees in diff. species. I found quite a few trees and plants never seen before by me. Whether they'll be new or not is a question. One Actinidia, f.i. has a special kind of variegation on its leaves and looks in the distance like a bush covered with white flowers. Then a chestnut with very narrow leaves and covered with white flowers. Also some shrubs, one very ornamental and another one very strange. Then poplars not seen before and willows. I made herbarium specimens and notes of the different things and when alive and well, hope to send things this winter.

Some nights ago I was wrongly directed by some outlaws in the monts. and instead of going homewhard, I got lost in the mountain wildernesses and I spent a night while dripping wet, under an overhanging rock in these with tigers, bears, and wolves infested regions. But you see, I am alive yet. My experiences are becoming so many and they are so varied that I could write a book about them.

The one day I am taken for a Russian spy and am questioned, the next day we lose provisions and have great trouble with some cart drivers we suspect. Then again we get in an Inn, where the flees seem to be countless, or we pass amidst the rolling of the thunder and the flashing of the lightning thro' gorgeous mountain valleys, or my men and drivers get scared on account of the tales about robbers and wild animals and they refuse to go along certain roads. O, so many more, too much to relate all here.

Well, I will stop for this time. It may be a long time before I write again as I have a most difficult trip before me thro' a strange wild land.

I remain as ever,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Best regards to All!

Antung, Manchuria,

July 12, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

As you see I am still in this place. If all things had gone as I wished we would have left several days ago, but now it seems as if a couple of days will pass yet before we are able to go. You must know that the rainy season has set in with full force and we have had rain here for three days and four nights in suc-

cession with the result that a great part of the town was flooded and all traffic had ceased. Yesterday morning, though, it cleared up and we were able to leave the Inn where we had been practically rain-blocked all that time. I went across the Yalu to the Korean side and we made arrangements to have some horses and pack animals ready this morning so that I could inspect them before hiring or buying them, but arriving this morning again the man who would bring us the animals failed to show up and, as always, nobody knew where to find him. We went to a village one hour's distance hoping to find things there because this town (New Ai jui) has mostly Japanese and Korean traders as inhabitants who know nothing about the pack animal business, but there they were so dear with their horses and mules that I decided to go back to Antung and try another town. You may be a little surprised to hear why we don't take carts. Well, we are going through the Korean country and there all wagon roads have ceased to be. There are only foot paths and such foot paths!! We had to take our shoes off and march several miles bare-footed on account of the roads being inundated in many, many places and the water was sometimes two feet deep. One stays amazed at such conditions in countries that have been inhabited for so many thousands of years. A few weeks' work on such roads would bring them in a good state, but no, they seem to prefer this deplorable condition.

I am also negotiating with another guide who speaks the Korean language and can be generally useful. He speaks Korean and Chinese well and my Chinese guide speaks Chinese and English so I'll get the information 2nd and third hand. It seems impossible to

obtain a Korean who is intelligent and speaks English, too. They are a remarkably stupid and dull race and men and women look so much alike that I mistake them every time for one another. It seems no wonder any more to me that Japan has taken their whole country. Even now one sees a small Jap slap a large Korean in the face and the fellow doesn't do a thing back. Very strange!

I suppose you received the letter with the accounts for the month of June which I sent you about six days ago. I expected also some mail from you but although I got some mail from Peking, there was nothing among it from Washington. So either a letter didn't arrive as yet, or is lost. Well, I will proceed now to Vladivostock and surely there I will find some directions how to handle the money matters especially. If a new appropriation has been allowed, all right. If not, all wrong. But as I have given up worrying about financial matters, I won't let these things bother me any more.

Now, I will give you an account of my ten days' journey through the mountains from Liao-yang to Antung. We started June 23 at 6 A.M. from Liao-yang and our outfit consisted of two strong Chinese carts, one drawn by two large mules and the other by three somewhat smaller ones, but they were all pretty strong animals. We were with five people; viz., the guide, one coolie, two drivers and myself. Well, we went for ten days (including stop-overs in places of interest from a collector's point of view) over mountains and through valleys. Sometimes we followed the course of a stream for a couple of days and crossed its waters perhaps ten or fifteen times during one day and then again we were high up in the mountains and

took a road which ran along deep precipices and where we had to use the greatest care in descending, for the moment the mules had gotten out of hand, the whole outfit would have gone down to the bottom somewhere.

The country as a whole is wild, but beautiful, but the solitude is rather great. Often we didn't see another cart for a whole day and the villages along the roads had sometimes only a handful of people who deemed it their duty to collect all at the Inn to see the foreign beast who had just arrived! And that the Chinese are curious, nobody will deny, but when one arrives in the evening wet and tired and one has to undress, wash, eat and drink and sleep before the whole multitude, that is rather more than a man can stand. I sometimes told my guide that if they paid ten cents apiece they could look at me the whole time, and when he told them so, then I went around with a plate to collect the money, but they only laughed and some of the more intelligent people left, but the others kept on staring and staring. And sometimes we had Japanese come in, too, and these were in some respects worse yet. They even looked into one's baggage and when they see the rubber sponge in my satchel the very first thing is to take it and try it on their face. The women especially do that and one even wanted me to give it to her or cut it in half and give her the half, a wish which I couldn't gratify for sponges of any description are nowhere to be had here. Rubber generally is an article which most of the people here have never seen and whether it is the sponge, a rubber band or the air bulb of the camera all these things never

fail to arouse the utmost amazement at first, followed by hilarity.

The way one has to spend the night in these Inns is rather strange to us. All sleep together in the same large room, all laying on the brick bedstead which is built along the wall and sleeping is not very perfect in such a room where the food is cooked, too, and where dogs, pigs, chickens and other animals have free admission during the day time. At night the different bugs come out and pester one and it is hopeless to catch them and when complaining about them the people laugh and say, "Well, well, they like a foreigner, too," and I think they are inwardly very glad that they bite a foreigner so well, for then it gives them themselves a greater rest. If you ever hear of a perfect bug medicine, cable it over to me. It is worth cabling.

Well, now, a little about the most important part of this trip; the finding of plants. Whether I have found anything new is doubtful, but I saw some trees and shrubs which I never met as yet in cultivation; that is, in my own personal experience. On the next page I will mention them.

1. A shrub or small tree some times which bears large white panicles of which the individual fls. are small, but as the bushes bear many spikes, the effect is very fine. The leaves of this shrub look somewhat like those of a lilac, but are smaller and the wood looks more like that of the Ligustrum. It is an Oleaceae. I looked over Brett Schneider yesterday and I think the plant in question is Ligustrina amurensis. So it is well known already. It is even in the Arnold Arboretum.

2. A low somewhat trailing shrub, found in one spot near Fong whan shen. The leaves are rather large, somewhat hairy, and the flowers were, although not full grown yet, of a curious form which I had never seen before. I can't consider it as a very ornamental plant in the way I saw it, but still it may be worth growing. In looking through Brett Schneider I found the name Plagiospermum sinense from a plant found by Dr. Ross in Manchuria and I almost think it is this plant.

3. The Sophora-like tree mentioned in former letters as found in the Chien shan Mountains, the forest around the East Tomb near Mukden and now also found here again, this time in bloom, seems to be Cladrastis amurensis. So it is well known already but still, I hope to send a whole lot of seed from it, for it is well worth growing and the lumber from it is a most durable wood used here to make fine furniture from and to make bridges of because it seems very little liable to rotting. The wood looks somewhat like that of the yellow locust (Robinia pseud-acacia).

4. A low-growing, narrow-leaved chestnut tree bearing a profusion of whitish blossoms. This castanea looks quite different from the kinds I have seen yet. It may be only a variety of the common kind, but it is a nice tree, well worth growing. I only found it in one valley as yet, which is very much out of the way. Indeed, it was only by accident that I came onto it. After having spent a night in the mountains I came along the trees while trying to find the way home.

5. An Actinidia which has a most curious variation; parts of some of the leaves have assumed a silvery color or white and one

plant in a small canyon had even purple and pink tints, just like the Caladiums do. I never knew that non-tropical plants could produce this kind of a variation. Well, these are the novelties to me, although they may be all well-known. The mountains are very rich in trees and practically all the trees and shrubs mentioned for the Chien shan Mountains near Liao-yang occur here, too, and quite a whole lot more beside.

Here I met, for instance, for the first time in China, the spruce and big trees some of them were, the alder, a sumac, the Acanthopanax ricinifolia, a Carpinus, narrow-leaved chestnut-oaks and some maples of which I counted five species and one is trifoliate.

The altitudes of some of these mountains are pretty high. I think they come close to the 4000 feet, so that explains why even spruces grow in this country. Some birches too reach large sizes and remind one of northern countries.

The Manchurian walnuts grow here and there to perfection and we passed through one grove where the trunks of them were extraordinarily heavy and the effect of all the feathery leaves above was very impressive.

We passed one large grove of Catalpas but the flowers of this kind are of a yellowish color and small, so the plant is of no value except as a leaf-tree. What species can this be?

One of the most graceful trees met is the Phellodendron amurense. A tree of a hundred years or so is extremely characteristic with its corky trunk and its graceful feathery leaves on long, drooping branches and generally growing in one direction. It deserves

to be planted in parks much more than has been done up till the present.

In poplars I saw two kinds of which I hope to obtain cuttings this winter, for they look new to me. One kind fruited so heavily that it looked as if there was snow on the trees. There is also one kind of willow, very broad-leaved. I enclose a little branch of it.

Some of the shrubs were quite nice. The most striking one was the Sambucus racemosa, some of them loaded with bunches of scarlet berries, then a Lonicera, looking like L. Morrarowi, also covered with beautiful red berries. The bush cherry grows wild and I saw not less than four kinds of wild plums, but all except one with small sour fruit. There are big wild apricot trees scattered throughout the mountains, but most of them had no fruit at all on them.

Some of the rocks on the north side are covered with Boston ivy (Ampelopsis Veitchii) and there also is a saxifraga growing on the north side in the rocks, which looks in the distance like a large ampelopsis, but on coming closer one sees what it is.

One is surprised to see so many nice flowers along the roadsides; trailing white roses like cherokee roses, and pale red bush roses, orange lilies in two kinds (one with straight upright and the other with drooping (turned up petals) flowers), one pink lily (very rare), and one upright white one, and one blue trailing one, and one yellow trailing one (this last one not ornamental). I also observed two species of Hemerocallis. Let me also mention

that one finds here and there beautiful ferns and selaginellas, even a kind of adiantum was seen by me high up in the mountains, in a dark carpinus forest. There is also a chestnut oak here, so closely resembling a chestnut that when made into herbarium specimens and not having flowers or fruits, one can't make distinction between the two.

To find all these different plants I went through a whole lot of different experiences. The most unpleasant one was to have to sleep under a rock in the mountain wildernesses infested with wild animals. I believe I mentioned this already. Well, another funny case was when the Japanese soldiers took me for a Russian spy and they even put an armed guard at the entrance of the room, probably to shoot us down in case of trouble. Well, after an officer had seen the passport and a fellow who shook me up out of a sleep had apologized, the whole bunch went away, but one fellow who kicked my guide didn't want to give his name and skipped out. A few times, too, I had trouble with the cowardice of the drivers who refused to go along certain roads on account of having heard that there were robbers around. Well, that part of the show is the most disagreeable. I mean these outlaws that roam around. I can assure you that it is quite a strain upon one's nerves always to be on one's guard. Of course, I had some experience in these matters in Mexico, but still, there I was only alone and didn't carry such a large amount of money, but here where I have practically to take care of four men beside myself and where I have several hundred dollars in silver with me, it is quite different. I walk most of the time so when the carts

are in a low valley I try to get high up so as to overlook the situation and when going through mountain passes I proceed ahead and do scouting work. During these ten days I haven't been a minute without a loaded revolver, but happily I didn't have to use except when out that one night in the mountains. Then I fired a shot underneath the rock for it was too dark already to see whether there were any animals, but there proved to be one and I fired another shot into a wild side canyon where a strange ghostly light was shining, but it remained constant and was probably due to the phosphorescense of decaying matter.

One night, though, near Sa mai tsi, a noted region for robbers, when we were all laying on the K'ang or brick bedstead in the Inn, we heard a heavy knocking on the door and some shouting voices outside. Well, they blew the light out inside and then it was quiet for a few minutes, but then at once a shot followed and then one more and of course, in less than no time I was up and out in the back yard with the revolver ready for business, but soon the son of the innkeeper came in rather frightened looking and said that they had killed a dog. Well, we accepted this matter, although I don't think that one of us believe it. I looked around the next morning but there were no signs of a dog or anybody shot, so I think the innkeeper, finding out that some nightly visitors were around, fired at them, for I was told that he was some kind of a rural policeman. That sound sleeping under these conditions is not very likely is easy to be understood.

I had only one meeting with some of these outlaws, but they didn't attack me, although they pointed out the wrong road to me, knowing that by following it I would come in almost impassable regions, and probably would return, but no, I wasn't so silly; but one thing is certain, that the next time when I go in these mountains I take several armed men with me. I mean just in that particular spot, that is, the gorgeous, wild, majestic mountain range back of Fong whan shen. I think it a big disgrace to the Chinese government not even to be able to clear these pests out. I had some talks with Chinese about it, but they say that most of these outlaws wear soldiers uniforms and then when they don't catch them redhanded, they have no proof that they are robbers and let me add one thing, and that is that in the lonesome regions the farmers' business seems to get sometimes somewhat monotonous and then as a past time some of our Chinese hayseeds take the robber business up and I think a whole village knows it, but profiting in some way or another from these outlaws, they keep things secret. But a progressive government would know how to deal with such a village.

In obtaining seeds of economic plants, I haven't been lucky as yet. I only got some poppy seed but even that only after having asked at least 12 or 14 poppy growers who did not have it. The country has suffered, of course, from the war, so everything is as yet not entirely in working order and on account of the military occupation they seem to have sold all surplus to the troops and the result is that nobody seems to have any seeds left, except some old sorghum seeds and some nondescript beans. In fall time I will have to do this part of the work.

During nearly every day of the journey we had more or less rain and very dull weather, for the rainy season has set in all over and many, many a time I wanted to take a photograph but the climatic conditions wouldn't allow me to carry out my desire. Still, I hope I was successful in obtaining a few interesting views.

I made quite a few herbarium specimens but I find out that to do that work successfully I must have more men and a drying apparatus with me for in the moist sultry weather one is not able to dry his specimens and the result is that my material spoils before it is dry. And we will have this rainy season for about six or eight weeks, so there is little hope for us.

Well this coming trip along the Yalu and Tumen rivers and through grand wild mountains will be full of interesting adventures. It is practically an unknown country and I haven't met one man as yet who could give me some advice about it. If I can keep my men in good spirits and if our adventures are not of the worst character, then everything will be all right and sometime in August or perhaps September, if the rainy season proves to be too hard on us, I hope to be in a white man's city again and be in a climate that equals Eastern Canada. Surely things from there will be hardy all over. It may be that I can't extend my trip as far North as Habarowsk for the winter sets in very soon in that northern country and I have to collect a whole lot of material in South Manchuria this fall and if my own ideas come true, I will also have to do quite some collecting down South.

I'll keep in touch if possible with the Legation in Peking.

I will try to let them know, if possible, where I am so in case you might not hear in a very long time from me, the minister might be able to tell you where he heard last of me. But I think things will go OK.

Good-bye to all.

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P.S. From Vladivostock to Paris is nowadays about 17 days, thence to Washington, D.C. about 8, so about 25 days. So if you haven't gotten a letter by the first of October, or let me say the 15th of October, then I may have met with some accident.

I was intending to send you some seeds from here and to Chico, but the post office is that of the Japanese military field post and it accepts only letters. A Chinese post office will be established some time this century.

About fruit culture, I didn't say a word as yet for the simple reason there is none. Here and there a wild pear or a wild apricot is left standing from the original growth, but otherwise the country is too recently settled for the most part to have given the Chinese the necessary time to go into orcharding, for things take time here.

There are nice fruits for sale here in the market. Peaches, large yellow plums and several varieties of apricot. Upon inquiry I learn they are all imported by Chinese junks from Chefoo. That part of China seems to be worth exploring, i.e., the Shantung Province. I was also told a seedless Chinese date exists there, growing near

Chi nan fu, the capital.

Enclosed are three money slips which really should have been in the first letter, but I forgot to enclose them.

Good-bye.

F.M.F.

Kang-ko, North Korea,

August 7, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

If this letter reaches you, you will see that I am alive yet notwithstanding many, many adventures of all kinds.

The journey is taking far more time than I thought it would and I am not out of the country yet. The reasons for the slow progress are: the immense physical difficulties of the country which we have to overcome. This whole northern Korea is simply one mass of mountains intersected with mostly narrow valleys and here and there a broad or a narrow river flows in a thousand bends.

One day we crossed three high mountain ranges and we went across a river 25 times. And some of these rivers are pretty dangerous to cross. In one we had to undress entirely and when we were in that part where the current was strongest one had to use the greatest of care in not being thrown off his feet. My guide was swept off but he soon came to stand again.

I have a map of this country on which some cart roads are marked, but that is the biggest lie out. In vain one looks for a road broader than 2 or 3 feet. And the trails in the moun-

tains are so dangerously near the edges and most times so narrow that one is amazed that not more accidents happen.

We had one accident of a rather serious nature on account of the narrowness of the trail. When we were close to Pyoh -Tong, going along the mountainside a couple of hundred feet above the Yalu, the first horse backed out and came head over tail rolling down the very steep mountainside. Just before reaching the water he came on his feet again, but a large box with provisions went in the river. In less than no time I was in the water and before the very strong current was able to catch me or the box I had gotten hold of it and with a few strokes of swimming it was in safety.

The horse escaped practically unhurt save for some scratches, but some of my things were broken and we had to search for a couple of hours before everything was recovered, for the horse in his fall crushed a box containing cooking utensils and such things as one uses every day, like cups, salt, vegetables, etc. These things were strewn all over the mountainside and the vegetation being rather weedy and dense, caused us lots of trouble in recovering things.

These Korean horses are quite small, but they are very vicious. Their temper is somewhat like that of our mules, but mules kick only, and these horses bite fiercely, too. One of the drivers got very badly bitten in the right hand. I dressed the wound as well as I could, but it should have been sewed up, but I never received lessons in high surgery so the poor chap had to be contented with our small efforts.

This Korean country is totally different from any other country in the world. Everything seems to be done in another way than elsewhere. The people, for instance, are all dressed in white, some clean, most of them not, but still all are in white. In their houses the whole floor is heated, in most of them the year around. The entrances in the rooms are like windows, so small, that one has more or less to crawl in. The food is totally different, too. Rice is the national food and mostly it is a poor kind of red rice boiled together with some crushed beans. Cucumbers are the most favored vegetable and at one meal one gets them prepared in 3 or 4 ways; i.e., cucumber soup, salted cucumber, fresh sliced cucumber and cucumber water. From a baby who is hardly able to walk up to old gray-haired men, everybody eats cucumbers and preferably unpeeled. Tea is unknown here so the national drink is water. But--now we come to a most interesting fact--they consume all their foods and drinks out of brass bowls and cups. And there seems to be very little bowel trouble around. How these people have come to learn that copper is a good preventive for bowel trouble would be worth finding out.

They all dress in clothes made of hemp fibre (*Cannabis sativa*) and it is all hand woven. Even their sandals are made of hemp fibre and very strong they are. To get very white fibre they cut the hemp young, just before it comes to bloom and put the hemp stems in a closed clay oven and heat them for some days. Then the bark comes off very easily and with a little washing out is ready to be dried and used.

The main crops here in the north are Sorghum in some

varieties, small millets, wet rice, different varieties of soy beans, maize and buckwheat. Here and there one grows some potatoes, but it is a rare crop. Their vegetables are cucumbers, pumpkins, chili peppers, onions and a poor weedy cabbage. Garden beans are also grown, mostly for the dry beans, though.

Fruits are absolutely unknown. Here and there one sees a wild pear or a wild plum, but they don't cultivate any.

As a dye plant the Polygonum tinctorium is grown sparsely.

As an oil plant the Perilla oxymoides is seen in great quantities.

As a fibre plant the Cannabis is all important and is seen all over. Everybody grows a patch of it. The Abutilon Avicennae is seen here and there but doesn't seem to be in much favor.

A plant of great importance with the Koreans is the tobacco. They give it the best place in their fields and as the whole race is addicted to excessive use of tobacco, they have large patches of it. The Nicotiana sinensis and the N. Tobacum are both grown, the latter somewhat more than the former. They have some very large leaved varieties of the former which I never saw before until now. I haven't been able yet to obtain seeds of it for this race lives by the day. They don't save any seeds for a bad year or so, Oh, no, let the day of tomorrow take care of itself. In agricultural seeds, too, they sow everything at once and if some is left, mix it up with other seeds and eat it. Now, the new crops are not ripe yet so there is nothing to be had.

Now, I come to the wild plants which I saw on different

trips. To begin with I may say that considering the great expenses and hardships, the harvest is not as good as might be wished. If I had been born fifty years earlier I could bring many novelties with me, but as it is now, others have been before me.

The flora up here is very much like in South Manchuria where I was a few months ago. It is entirely northern in aspect. Pines are the most common among the trees and birches, lindens, maples, cladrastis, chokecherry, pears, poplars, elms, willows, oaks, and ashes occur, too, all over. Spruces are very rare and alders, too. Of the last I have seen only one group, but they were magnificent old trees, just like old camphor trees. A few days ago I saw for the first time an Acanthopanax ricinifolia in full bud and it made a very striking impression to see such a large leaved tree of a rather big size covered with white umbels.

I found a few trees and shrubs which are unknown to me and I collected herbarium material from them which I will send up when I reach a place more in contact with civilization than here in this town.

One grass I found which is very valuable for lawns needing practically no mowing and making a fine dark green turf. This is, if not known already, a fine acquisition. I got a small quantity of seeds from it.

A queer thing is that the blackberries are red. There are two different species growing wild, with leaves looking like blackberries but red fruited. They are both worth experimenting with as the size and flavor are not bad.

There are several species of Arolia growing in the mountains. One has leaves 3 or 4 feet long. I take it for Arolia mandshurica.

In some parts of the higher mountain valleys one sees a mass of beautiful scarlet lilies intermixed with graceful blue-bells. Lower down whole slopes are blue with the large flowered blue cups, Platy codon grandiflorum. The people collect the fleshy roots of this plant and eat them boiled for food. In some of the rocky ravines one's eyes feast upon the beautiful feathery masses of Spiraea sorbifolia, which with its large pure white spikes, makes a fine effect. Another Spiraea (Probably S. racemosa) has red spikes and covers large territories. Along the roadsides one frequently notices a clump of the brilliant Lychnis Haageana with its fire-red flowers.

In the first days of my journey, close to Ai-djou we frequently came across big wild apricot trees of quite a different type than other apricots. The whole tree was larger in every respect except fruits which are bitter and small. One trunk measured ten feet circumference and I think the tree can be used in our parks as a shade tree. I got seeds of a few.

Up to the present I haven't seen any primaeval forest yet, for the Koreans are like the Chinese. They hate to leave a wild tree grow. But they don't grub the roots out like the Chinese do. They are too inactive or too weak for that, but they burn a whole area over when they need it for agricultural purposes. In a few days, though, I hope to be in these regions where no man has used an axe yet. They tell me the big lumber is still to be found there.

Not all of the journey up till now I made by horses. No, from Pyah-Tong to Tchosan we did by junk. But that is the first and the last time that they catch me in a junk on the Yalu, for the journey which is only two days by horses took us eight days. If the junkmen hadn't lied to us about the shortness, I would never have gone, but they said, O, it will be three or four days. Well, as the heat in the mountains was very great, so great indeed, that our stearine candles melted in all shapes, and as the tracks were reported to be washed out in many places, I decided to take the watercourse. It was considerably cheaper, too, for for the junk we paid 25 Yen and had some food beside, while the horses cost each about 4 Yen per day and as we need 5 horses that is a whole lot of money. These horses are frightfully dear here in this country. They want from 40 to 50 Sen per 10 li. (about 3 miles). Well, as one makes from 20 to 30 miles per day you see the expenses are quite high. I generally pay them by the day for they juggle so much with these li's or make them shorter or longer to suit themselves, that I got tired of it. One has plenty of troubles with these horsemen, I assure you that. They are mostly an ignorant lot of men who don't know how to handle their own horses. This whole Korean people is effeminate and one can see it especially in their fear for horses. I wouldn't say that they are a bad race. Oh, no, far from it, they are really well-behaved and gentle, but lack of intercourse with other people, unwholesome food and perhaps more causes have made them now a weak, impotent race.

Well, when going by junk we passed in the Yalu some large rafts with fine lumber, all coming from the upper Yalu. On some of them they had twelve men employed in rowing and steering and they had little houses on them in which the fellows slept and ate. Some of these houses were covered with the bark of apparently a large spruce. Well, I soon hope to see these trees, now.

My intentions are to go from here to the famous Pai-shan or White Mountain, which is over 8,000 feet high and then go north east along the Tumen River until I come out at the Coast. I think that a 20 days or so will bring me pretty close to it and I will be glad to get in contact with civilization again for here one is cut off from the world.

I do not send you my accounts for the month of July from this place for I do not know whether the mails are entirely safe and if lost, I couldn't get all these receipts back any more.

My writing is perhaps not very well readable, but you have to excuse me for that for I am sitting on the floor and have for a table an old box and it is rather low.

When I was in the junk, I got quite sick for the sanitary conditions were far from ideal and the food abominable. I had a heavy fever and bowel trouble. I am slowly improving now and when the weather is getting cooler I will be all right again. If I hadn't taken some strong medicine like Chlorodyne and Laudanum, I would have been in pretty bad shape now, but these things checked the bowel trouble and then the fever left by itself.

When in civilization again I hope to taste some nice fruits and vegetables, for here there is nothing. I often envy

you people in having now such nice watermelons, peaches and grapes. Could we but get some here'.

Well, with the best wishes to all, I am,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Hōng-kyong, Korea,

Sept. 4, '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Slowly do I emerge again from the wilderness, after a most strenuous journey of heavens knows how long. When in more civilized conditions, I hope to write you a longer message. Goodbye, now,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER

Hoi-ryang (or Gui-ling,) Korea,

September 4, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

This time I have reached a post office again and I will avail myself of this opportunity to let you know that I am alive yet and well, and that I am slowly emerging from the wilderness after a strenuous journey of I don't know how many weeks.

This trip takes far more time than I expected and the end isn't here yet. The roughness of the country makes travel slow and then one can't even obtain all the time the necessary outfit to travel with. Like now I am waiting again a whole day to get a few bull carts.

I will not make this a long letter for I will wait until I have reached regions where I have a table and chair and can overlook my notes in quietness and not like now sitting on my camp bed with a board on my knees in a dark mud-plastered room with hundreds of flies

inside and a multitude of Koreans and Japanese outside watching every pen stroke I make. I assure you that the fun has gone off long since from being the first or the only white man in a town.

I will tell you, though, a little about the journey from Kanko where I wrote you to this place. In all it took us 26 days to come here and for many days we travelled through primaeval forest, one time even three days in one stretch and we camped at night in log cabins which had been erected for hunters' use. These forests are splendid. They consist mostly of larches, then follow spruces, pines, and lindens, birches, poplars and gigantic willows are found in patches or as solitary specimens and they attain the same enormous sizes as the conifers to; from 100 to 150 feet tall. I measured larches that had a diameter of four feet, five feet above the ground and by counting the annual rights of some of the cut down giants I found that most of the trees are between 120 and 180 years old. Tremendous forest fires rage at times and so we travelled sometimes several days through burned areas. A pitiful sight it is, but one can see the sun and the sky, a thing which is well-night impossible in the unburned forest. To explore the primaeval forest is simple impossible. There is generally only one trail through it and as soon as one goes off that trail one is in the entanglement of vines, fallen and dead trees, undergrowth, peat bogs, mud holes and Heavens know what else. And if one should go too far and not be able to find the trail back, pitiful is his position! Traffic is exceedingly slight (some days we didn't see a single man or beast)and food is not to be found, neither water, unless only at a few places, so one would simply perish and one's bones wouldn't be found even.

There is an awful gloom in these forests. Birds are absent and the quietness is almost suppressive. Even the drivers of the horses come under the impression and our caravan proceeded in absolute silence, only broken by the noise of breaking branches of trees or by the sound of the horses' hoofs touching rocks or tree stumps in the track. Sometimes a monarch of the forest had fallen right across our trail and then we had to make big detours to keep clear of him.

In regard to the finding of new plants, I haven't been as successful as I wished. The flora of this country is remarkably similar to that of Northwestern Europe so most plants are well known.

In another letter I will describe these matters more fully for I have to look over the hundreds of herbarium specimens I collected and in this mud room I have barely space to turn.

So, with best regards to all I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Vladivostock, Siberia,

September 14, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

At last I arrived in this place, and so I am partly back again in civilization, even if it isn't American. I received lots of mail from you which I will answer within a few days. I got a letter from the American Minister mentioning the wording of the

telegram. All right, that takes a burden off.

Well, later one more. With best regards to all, I am

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Vladivostock, Siberia,

September 20, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

It is already several days ago since I landed here, but the long journey I have behind me and the primaeval conditions I have lived in for about three months have made such an impression upon my brain that it is only with great difficulty that I am able to write. I feel like taking a long rest among an English speaking community so as to offset again these impressions of primaeval life, but of course, that is out of the question here, for here in Vladivostock there is a mere handful of English speaking people. Nearly all of the whites are Russians with several Germans thrown in, and the nonwhite population consists of a strange mixture of all races from the Orient, including even Turks and Persians.

Now, my knowledge of Russian is only slight and it is a very difficult language to learn, so you may understand that I don't feel entirely at home and I wouldn't be a bit sorry if I was on good old American soil again.

Well, I will first answer your letters before going further. I received nine in all. One was a duplicate, though. They

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were dated as follows: May 14, 15, 17, 19, 28, June 1, 2 (in duplicate) and the last one June 7. Yours of May 14 is the "boss" of the bunch for quantity as well as for quality, and I was very pleased to read it through even a couple of times and as such, I surely do not agree with the statement you jokingly made at the end of the letter, that its perusal would spoil a whole forenoon. I am only afraid it prevented you from doing perhaps a better work during that part of the day you gave up to it.

I see with regret that the free seed distribution has still to be continued. Yes, if that snug sum of money could have been used for exploring work and for introduction of new things the U. S. would have been the greatest gainer.

By this time I suppose you received all my vouchers for the past fiscal year. Are they all right?

As I mentioned on the postal, I received a letter from the Minister at Peking announcing that a telegram had arrived for me reading: "American Legation, Peking, Frank Meyer, Authorization renewed. Wilson." This was very good news, for suppose the thing hadn't been renewed? I was already in the wilds of Korea at the time the telegram arrived and I didn't emerge until now in the middle of September. So if it hadn't been renewed all the heavy expenses I incurred of late would have come out of my own pocket. I think the next time, though, I would like to have a surer base to proceed on as the one I trusted to this time.

I notice your remarks concerning larger quantities to be sent in. Well, Mr. Fairchild, that is a difficult question. Of most of the seeds I have sent I couldn't obtain larger quantities.

They simply were not to be had. Of some of the beans and grains I could buy more, but are they worth it? I am anxiously awaiting some reports about their value and then we go in it for bushel quantities, for the primitive transportation here makes the buying of large quantities a very expensive affair. One has to hire additional carts and has to pay for storing in Inns, etc. Up here in Manchuria and Siberia I am going to buy larger quantities, for I do not fancy this country so very much, so if possible, I would rather not return here unless absolutely necessary.

Your information concerning the Cyperus tegetiformis is interesting. Is it possible that A cyperus can make good matting? The mattings made from the stems of Cyperus papyrus are very coarse, at least those that I have seen. This is probably a fine stemmed species.

Yes, I found some matting rushes in Korea and Eastern Siberia but only a few plants. I got small quantities of seeds, though, and will send them to you shortly. One is probably pretty nearly as good as the Japanese Juncus effucus and it will be possible to grow them in Maine.

Has Mr. Tull gone to Japan? And did he find many new things about these rushes?

Yes, I appreciate your desire of bringing us together but you are quite right in remarking that the distances are too great in the Orient. And I would add especially between the wilds of Manchuria and Siberia and the ports.

Your note about Wilson surprises me. If Professor Sargent wants Wilson to go out to North China, then I surmise that Professor

Sargent has some information concerning certain plants at hand which we do not possess. What can that be? Perhaps you might be able by a diplomatic stroke to find out what special things they want from that part of the world. For so far as I heard from Mr. McGregor, Wilson was trying to get located in England and didn't want to return again to China.

About shipping plants, yes, if I do not return to America this spring, I will send you some great quantities of different things, but I would rather deliver them personally. Not that my physical health requires me to leave this part of the world, no, not that, but I have so much to learn yet in the States concerning new industries and about climate, agricultural possibilities, etc., that I feel it is not good to stay away from the country too long.

By white Loquats I mean the color of the fruits. I should have said so for perhaps you surmized it was a variegated-leaved form I referred to. I gave Mr. Kennedy some money in advance to buy plants for so I think we will get them. Mr. Kennedy wrote me some time ago that he had made arrangements to get ten grafted plants this fall.

Wistarias. Well, the Wistarias of North China must be about as hardy as we can wish for. They even grow at Newchwang, Manchuria, where the thermometer occasionally drops to 25° below zero. If I can get plants or seeds from such types, I will certainly send them.

Tea seeds. To obtain good tea seeds, I will have to go to Central China between the months of September and November and

as such it will require a special item of a program.

Gymnocladus Chinensis, Nos. 202a and 203a. Well, I haven't much information concerning these things. As I have stated before, the Chinese slice the pods and soak them in water and in that water they wash fine clothes and Chinese women wash their hair with a decoction of them, so as to make the hair glossy and have it stick to the head. The pods are sold in great quantities on the markets and it may be that there are some more uses yet for them. If I am in these regions next winter, I hope to find out more (if there is to be found).

No. 211a. Of this I have encountered only one tall old tree and the seeds were not collected by the natives. It was growing in a temple court near Hanchan. I hardly think the seed vessels can be used for soap for they contain a very pungent oily substance which acts very biting into one's mouth.

I wrote Mr. Williams of the American Legation at Peking to try to get us, if possible, several pounds of Pistache seed from the Western Hills near Peking. But I am sure Mr. Dorsett received those seeds I collected. Perhaps he didn't mention these matters.

Russian Permits. Yes, it was a very good thing that I obtained a Russian letter of introduction at Peking for it would have been well nigh impossible for me to have entered Russian territory if I hadn't had such a paper, for the authorities are very strict here, quite different from the Americans. Just now I am expecting to receive another permit from the Governor here allowing me to travel into the interior of Siberia. This is a

dangerous country. Robberies and murder are the order of the day. Nearly every night they plunder some stores and two days ago they held up the Siberian Bank and stole 35,000 roubles. There are lots of outlaws around in this part of the world. In many ways this country is like the West was 40 years ago. It is full of grand possibilities and of risks.

Japanese Permits. When I return late in fall from the regions around Harbin, I will have to pass through a neutral zone before I am able to reach Mukden. Well, that region is the most difficult one of whole Manchuria at present. I do not know as yet how to get through, but I will find a way. If the Japanese will not allow me, I will wire Mr. Rockhill. Then he may take the matter up for me. I can't exactly complain about the Japanese in allowing me to pass through, but I can say that they are extremely suspicious and inquisitive and unless they are sure of one's status quo, they distrust us whites very much. I wouldn't recommend tourists to visit North Korea or South Manchuria. There is too much questioning and suspicion.

Herbarium specimens. Yes, I see Professor Sargent's opinion in regard to this question. Well, I myself feel very much so too in some respects. It is better to have herbarium specimens of the things one introduces. But it adds very greatly to the expenses and especially to the time. I have collected quite a good deal of the things I found, but according to the primaeval conditions, I travelled in, the specimens are not as well preserved as I would like. To make a nice collection one has to stop in one place for a couple of weeks and collect and tend to this work, like

Wilson did. Now, I have covered long distances as yet and have been doing a good deal of prospecting work without having located myself for any length of time. But there are some places where I would like to remain for several weeks. I will see in the next letters whether I can rely upon the renewing of authorization for several years. In such case, I can afford to stay a certain time in a place, but now I feel like a man discovering a rich mining district but not having the means to explore it properly.

I received Mr. Fisher's report as an enclosure in your letter of May 17. I am sorry that all these chestnuts and acorns were dead. They represented a whole lot of work and time. Well, I will try again this year.

About incurring expenses after July 1, 1906, yes, I was careful not to enter them on vouchers pertaining to last year's authorization. As you probably have seen, now, I left quite some money out of my allowance. Your letters reached me too late to buy large quantities of grain or plants, so that money has been turned back into the treasury. This year, though, it may be the reverse, for out in this part of the world my expenses are very much greater and maybe I haven't enough. The new check didn't reach me as yet, as I would rather not receive it here, so I will write the Legation people to send my mail to Muxden, where I hope to arrive two or three months from now. At the present I will use the money left on the letter of credit which is about 400 pounds. My salary is included in this for I haven't drawn it as yet--at least only a little of it.

In your letter of July 2nd you say, "Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Mr. W. J. Carr." Well, this copy was not in either one of the two letters of July 2nd. Perhaps it is in another letter as yet in Peking.

In letter of May 28, you mention the peony matter. Well, I collected some seeds in North Korea and I will soon send you these for Mr. Craig. I suspect it to be P. albiflora. Professor Wheeler also states behind the name of Paeonia Moutan, "Not known in the wild state." Well, the footnotes in the first volume of Brett Schneider, page 425 and 426, give quite another version of this question and I see that the natives even use the wood of them for fuel! So there must be quite a quantity of them.

I also see that the seeds of the Citrus medica packed in charcoal germinated better than the parafine wax ones. So the old practice is still the best.

About naturalization. Well, I took my first paper out in the District of Columbia, so that is the seat of the Government and I am in hopes that my absence of the country will be counted as on Government business and then on the 22nd of October, 1906, it will be five years since I took out that paper, so I will declare myself an American Citizen on that date. In my heart I am it since long ago, so it only needs official confirmation on paper.

I am glad to notice the sweet things of facilitated voucher business, though it came in a sour letter.

And now I am through with answering this lot of letters so I will tell you a little about this country and my future plans.

I first will mention the fact that everything is very dear here. For an unfurnished room one pays 3 or 4 Roubles per day and for use of lamp, bed clothes, towels, washwater, etc., one pays so much extra. As a rule the hotels do not serve the food, so one either has to go out and eat in restaurants or have his food brought to his room, both of which are expensive affairs. Wearing apparel of any kind is scandalously dear and as I wore out on this three months' trip several suits and three pairs of boots, besides lots of underwear, I am up against it. They want for a very ordinary suit 60 or 70 roubles. Well, that is pretty stiff. And so I have to send my Chinese guide to Tientsin to get his heavy winter clothes and get also some for me, for otherwise I would have to buy him some winter garments down here and I am not so well to do as to pay millionnaire's prices.

My Korean guide I paid off the other day and sent back to Antung where I engaged him. He got the last time very much in the habit of smoking opium and was not as useful as at first. Of course, such a journey is a hard strain upon one's intellect and upon the body, too, for I could clearly observe it in my men. They both had become much duller and lost flesh, too. I myself, too, had become somewhat stupid, but I attribute that to the lack of intercourse with fellow white men and to the fact that the Koreans are really a very stupid race and when living among them for a length of time one is bound to take some of these characteristics over from them.

Did my letters from Kang ko and from Hoi ryong reach you? I am not able to send you any photographs as yet for the reason that

here in this city there are not any specialists in film developing, so I had to send them by a special way to Shanghai. You must know that this place here is strongly fortified and that they are very afraid that photos would be taken and so I couldn't run the risk of sending my valuable films through the post office. They might expose them to the light! I haven't taken a single photo as yet in Russian territory for fear that they might confiscate the camera, but when I am once out of this place in the country itself, well, then I don't think there are any objections.

The military commander here, General Flang, told me to be very careful in not going too near the forts and fortifications, for I might be arrested or even shot at. Well, this whole Eastern country lives in suspiciousness and as I have become used to it, these statements don't worry me, but I am wise enough to keep away from danger.

The flora in and around Vladivostock is not very rich. The number of trees doing well is even very limited. I will write some down that do really well: i.e., a small-leaved Linden, Phellodendron amurense, a large-leaved ash, probably Fraxinus mandshurica, Prunus podus, Betula mandshurica, B. alba, Populus tremula, Juglans mandshurica, Crataegus mandshurica, Cladrastis amurensis, a Carpinus, Acer palmatum, and two other species, two species of elms, one specie of willow, Acanthopanax ricinifolia, Alnus sp. and the Siberian crab apple.

In shrubs one finds Ribes rubrum and R. alpinum, Viburnum opulus, two species of Lonicera, Aralia spinosa and Aralia mandshurica, Rosa rugosa, Ligustrina amurensis, Spiraea sorbifolia, Spiraea race-

mosa, Spireae bumulda. Then a few Euonimus, Weigelia, Philactelphus grandiflora, and that is about all.

In flowers I saw asters, dahlias, zennias, Corcopsis bicolor, Balsams, Cannas and some more of the very ordinary summer flowers.

In short, there is not so very much to be found here that we don't know already. That the Acanthopanax grows so far North is new to me. I expect to see it even in de Amur region.

Now, my plans are as follows: to proceed from here to Habarowsk in the North by train and stopping off at different stations to investigate the flora and to buy seeds. Then, from Habarowsk I hope to go along the Amur until I strike the Sungari and along this last named river as far as Harbin. I hope as such to strike the forests as well as the wheat and grass lands. Mukden will be the next large city I hope to reach and where I expect to find mail and from there I haven't made definite plans yet. But as I am there not far from the ports, it is not so hard to make a trip down to ship material.

But, I won't run ahead very far now, for this country is full of unexpected delays and adventures and when the severe Manchurian winter sets in, then we will get, perhaps, some more hindrances yet in the form of wild animals of which there are many stories told, but in which I take no stock as I myself didn't see a single one, while out in the wilds of Korea.

Yesterday I engaged me a Russian interpreter and we are looking over and arranging the collected plants now, but as this letter is already long enough, I will conclude this time and remain

With the best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P. S. In the next letter I will describe some of the plants I found and the seeds I collected.

F.N.M.

Siberia,

Sept. 20, '06.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

As you see, at last I landed again in civilisation after a long, hard journey. How are you getting along? I heard from Mr. Pieters that your mother's health was very bad; that is really too bad. When shall the clouds dispell? Keep courage! Your work is very much appreciated. General Nogi lost both his sons, but kept on fighting till peace was declared. I am staying here only a short time and then I hope to proceed farther N. and then S.W. again. I had been in hopes of returning to good, old America again this spring but it seems that they want me to stay out here longer yet. Well, we are soldiers in one sense and as such must stick to our post and do our duty.

Well, Mr. Dorsett, goodbye this time. With sincere wishes for your happiness, I am,

Yours faithfully,

FRANK N. MEYER

Vladivostock, Siberia,

September 30, 1906.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

As you will see, I am still in Eastern Siberia, but it will be very shortly now -- within a few days I hope to be on the move again.

I herewith enclose 6 small bags, with very valuable seeds of the lawn grass. I also sent the same quantity to Mr. Fairchild, but of these rushes you get all the seed I collected. Be good to them.

Yesterday I also sent 8 small parcels with cuttings and plants to you. As there does not seem to be a parcel post arrangement between Russia and America, I cannot ship them the regular way, and so it may be that they willreach you somewhat late. Still, I hope they won't be too much delayed.

Tomorrow I will send you a medium sized box chuck full of seeds, about 220 different kinds. I do not know what the people at Washington will say about it but I think it is better that you look over the things first and take out what comes in your line and ship the rest to Washington.

There are a few things, though, that had better go to Washington. One is seed of a wild peony, No. 429a, which Mr. Fairchild desires for a Mr. Craig of Cornell. Then seeds of plants growing in the forests at high altitudes, for them it will be too warm at Chico. These ought to go to a northern garden if there is one. Botanical specimens, like these fungi, go also to the capitol, and of the hemp, opium poppy, beans, vegetables, I think you had better send the lion's part away, too. Trees and shrubs on the contrary are better cared for at your garden. With these wild apricots, choke cherries, sand cherries, plums, I am in a difficult dilemma. You must know that Mr. Oliver has asked me to send him some of the wild fruits that I encountered but to send them from here is very difficult, so if it is not too much work you might send him some seeds or if he is not in a hurry, perhaps you might grow the plants for him. Then all the grasses. There is a regular grass station in Walla Walla, isn't there? Well, I think the Washington people had better send them to there. Of the sedge marked 449a and 500a, I wish you would take half. That is probably a valuable forage plant and so it is better to try it in different places.

These vetches and other leguminous plants of which you see there are quite a few also had better be kept at the garden.

I would not be a bit surprised if there are not some very good things among them.

With a few seeds I hope you will have patience, ie., some are not cleaned enough to be sown direct, because I have no sieves or anything of the kind and the other part of the patience you will have to bestow on some of the tree seeds like the Pinus, Sophora, Japonica, Crataegus mandshurica and C. pinnatifida, Berberis, sp., roses, viburnum, etc., for many of these things will rest for one year before germinating, and the moment you would throw them away would be just the time they would start. I almost envy you in being able to watch all these things. True, I collect, which is still more interesting, but believe me, Mr. Dorsett, it is pretty hard work in the wilderness out here. I have been out on this last trip for about three months and have lead a strenuous life and always alone. There is no fellow white man to talk to. One can exchange a few words with his Chinese servants about the most common subjects, but there it rests. Physically, one does not feel a journey like this so much. I do not feel it, though I walked nearly every day from 20 to 30 miles and collected at the same time, but mentally one can observe it. By living among a dull race without having papers or books, one is bound to descend somewhat to the level of his surroundings. It is also very strange for us whites to have to live without chairs, tables, lamps, bread, etc., and yet one cannot obtain any of these things in Korea and in most parts of Manchuria.

And even now I thought I would be in a country where the civilization is about the same as in America, but it is a long way

off yet. Everything here lays in the future, the present is a state of chaos, not only in politics, but also in nearly every other thing. And yet one feels intuitively that there is a very great future yet for this race. Just now they are mere children, rough and happy, and the day of tomorrow does not concern them much. And the strangest thing is that I like them. I only wish I could give them more light. My Russian is awful poor as yet, just enough to express myself meagrely but I am learning it and then I will be able to get more joy out of a conversation.

I have a feeling that there is some mail from you waiting in Peking but I won't get it until I am in Harbin and that may be six or eight weeks off yet.

I have enclosed in the box with the seeds also the notes that belong with them. They are all in duplicate so I wish you would send one-half to Mr. Fairchild and also one-half of the enclosed notes concerning the eight parcels mentioned in the beginning of this letter.

Before I close this letter I will tell you that I have passed, on this last journey, for the first time in my life, through real primeval forests. There were larches there of 3-4 feet in diameter and 150 feet tall and spruces and pines to match them. The gloom, though, is decidedly depressing. One has to be silent whether one intends to be or not, and unhappy is the traveller who wanders off the trail and cannot find it back any more; he is doomed to die from hunger and thirst for there are no fruits, hardly any water and nearly no traffic in these forests.

Well, how are you progressing these days? I hope things have improved in your home since I heard last from Mr. Pieters.

Goodbye, now with best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Vladivostock, Siberia,

October 14, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I forward to you nine parcels with cuttings of trees and shrubs and one plant collected in the region around Vladivostock. I shipped them last night by steamer to Shanghai, care of the American Consulate and notified the postmaster to forward them to the Department. I also treated thirteen parcels to Chico the same way. They are all properly addressed and tagged, so I don't think there will be any difficulty connected with them. The reason I ship them this way is because there is not a regular parcel post arrangement between the United States and Russia. Shameful, I admit, but--well, comment unnecessary!

I enclose in this letter also four packages of seeds, all of very valuable plants; also a smaple of the lawn grass No. 470a and 471a and a sample of the Juncus 513a and 514a. You may be able to find somebody who can determine these plants.

Last week I delivered to the shipping office of Bryner, Koutsnesoff & Co. a box with seeds to be sent to Chico. This box has been kept here now for some time waiting for a good steamer and they notified me yesterday that they expected one in three or four days. Mr. Dorsett will probably take some things out and ship the rest to you.

I have been delayed here on account of my Chinese guide who failed to return until the day before yesterday and as he is a good man, I didn't want to get a new one, for there are many Chinese here of the outlaw class and strange stories there are told about some of these chaps. Well, I utilized the time collecting seeds and cuttings around this city and its neighborhood.

In my last letter I spoke of telling you of some of the plants I found In Korea. Well, I was intending to ship my collected plants to Washington, but I see now that I need them as yet myself until I leave this part of the world, for I will have to make references in some of the notes on these plants as to where I obtained seeds or cuttings of them. So I will simply mention now the fact that I collected many different kinds of seeds from grasses and leguminous plants, also quite a few vegetables of which one, the summer cabbage, may perhaps prove to be a good one. In ornamental trees and shrubs there are also quite a few although I am afraid there are few novelties as the flora of Northern Korea is not very distinct in general. For some of the seeds I am afraid there is not a good garden as yet in the United States unless there has been one established up in the Northwest since I left. For

some of the seeds have been collected in high altitudes, where conditions are more or less alpine, cool summers, cold winters and much moisture in the atmosphere. Well, they will do the best they can with them.

Last night I received your letter of September 5, 1906, and see you have been in Southern Texas. A little bit warm, there, isn't it? Yes, I think so, too, that Southern or Central Chinese plants will do well there, especially near the coasts. Of course, they have severe colds there every so many years, but such things happen also in Southern and Central China.

I see you sent me a Treasury warrant on August 10. Well, I haven't received it as yet. It is probably on the way from Peking to here and I will probably receive it when I am in Habarowsk, for I leave tomorrow morning for good.

I haven't been able as yet to talk to Mr. H. S. Greene about the unexpended balance matters, but I will probably find an opportunity today. I am sorry, though, I can't turn back the balance of 1905 as soon as you would like it. How could I do it without having received a new supply?

I will probably send my accounts for the past quarter within a few days. I had some accounts yet to straighten with my Chinese guide and have been waiting for that and now he returned and failed to take receipts of the expenses he made. My, this money part of exploring is harder on me than to tramp through untrodden wildernesses. It will make me old before age.

The weather here has been rather mild for these last five

days, but before that we had a few sharp frosts, which killed most of the tender vegetation, so I think I will not be able any more to collect many herbarium specimens, especially as it will turn colder now every day and our journey is also toward the North.

With best regards to you all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Sunday evening, Oct. 14, 1906

This evening I saw Mr. Greene about the financial matters. Well, you see, Mr. Greene is not a very long time in the service as yet and couldn't give me any pointers about it. I have to see an old hand about it. Why not send me some information on paper? If not advisable, it can be written to me absolutely unofficially simply as advice.

I also will write you a rough outline of what my next journey will probably be. I hope to proceed tomorrow by train to Nikolsk, from there to Lake Hanka probably by carts. Then to Spark; at both these last places large forests are reported with much vegetation. Then I will proceed farther North, mostly by train, stopping off here and there and exploring regions worth while. After about three weeks from now I hope to be in Habarowsk on the Amur. Then, I will descend through its valley until I reach the point where the Sungari flows into it. Then I hope to follow this river more or less until Sansin is reached. From there to Harbin, then to Kirin and then to Mukden. From there Southwards in zigzag lines until Shanghai is reached where I probably will need to

recuperate somewhat from the hardships and colds of the North.

This is, of course, only a statement on paper. As to how far cold, outlaws, or any other disagreeable agency will prevent me from doing so, the future alone can reveal.

The main object of this northern journey will be to collect large quantities of grain and seeds of hardy staple crops and of trees and shrubs. I probably will ship from Habarowsk and from Harbin. As the postal facilities are in some ways easier than in North Korea I hope to be able to write at shorter intervals, but it may be, though, that from Habarowsk to Harill we will have to go through very untrodden regions.

It may be considered a little strange, but I will have to mention that these northern regions are considered very unsafe and that Russian outlaws and Chinese as well commit bold crimes.

I obtained, however, permits to carry a gun and a revolver and got from the Governor here (General Flong) letters of introduction to officials along my route of travel and I hope to get some more yet and have my own courage and good will and also count upon the best wishes of you all so with that in stock, I think things will do well.

I finally will express also my thanks to Mr. R. S. Greene, American Commercial Agent here, who has shown me many kindnesses and will also arrange shipping material from here.

Mr. Th. Sammons, the American Consul-general at Hiuchwang was here last Thursday and Friday on his way home by the Trans-Siberian railroad and we spent some very pleasant hours in his company. He told me he would also call on you and tell you how I was getting along here, so I think a few weeks perhaps from the

time you receive this letter, Mr. Sammons will see you and then I will probably be far out in the woods.

One thing is a little pleasanter for me on this trip, and that is, I have at least a white companion, my Russian interpreter. He doesn't speak English so we always converse in German. He could have a little more courage, but one can't find all qualities in one person. Otherwise, he seems to be a good chap. I wonder, though, whether a few months roughing will alter him. You see, in travelling through the wilds there must be a harmonious tie between the members of a party, otherwise it is very destructive for one's character.

Well, I conclude with best regards,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Vladivostock, Siberia.

October 14, 1906.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Herewith I forward to the U. S. Postoffice at Shanghai, China, 13 parcels with cuttings of different trees and shrubs. I trust they will send them at once to your station, as I notified them to do.

I will give a few explanations concerning a few of the things. Of No. 539 I send the same quantity to Washington, also Nos. 541, 544, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555 and of 557. On account of not having duplicate labels I gave them the number next to the

original, so that explains why there are mostly two numbers appearing on the descriptive notes, which I herewith enclose.

The box with seeds which I spoke of in my last letter has been delivered since 8 days to the shipping office but as yet no steamer has come in, but we expect one in a few days, so I hope in one month from now you will receive it. It will go from here to Kobe, Japan, and then to Seattle, from where the Quartermaster of the U. S. Army will forward it to you.

The Juncus, marked 557, is a very valuable one, as it grows on dry land. I hope it will arrive alive. I collected also a small quantity of seeds which I will send to Washington this time, otherwise they may become discontent there when I send you everything.

I have been delayed here on account of my Chinese guide, who went home for a short trip, but failed to return until two days ago. But tomorrow morning I hope to leave Vladivostock for good and go through the wild Northern regions.

Very sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Nikolsk, Siberia,

October 18, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I send you my accounts for the past quarter, covering the months of July, August and September. I made the accounts out for each month separately as it is easier for me

and may be also easier for you people up there.

Some of these bills which are enclosed represent a far greater amount of labor than might be credited them, for you must know that in some of the small villages in Korea, there was no ink or no paper and most times, worse than all, the landlord couldn't write. It has often delayed me considerably before all things could be gotten together and many of the people didn't like it a bit to sign their names to receipts of such amounts as most of my expenses were in Korea. And, of course, I don't like it myself either, but the law has to be obeyed as long as one likes to work under it.

There are a few bills among my expenses which are signed by my guide who bought the things at different places. They all relate to food supplies; for the food in Korea is generally bad and not very wholesome, so my men as well as myself supplemented it as well as we could by buying additional supplies. It was too much work for me to take note of all these small things every day so I left it to my guide who dealt with all these things. It may be that the fiscal people object to these bills because the exact places where things were bought are not named in it, but you may understand that when one buys ten or twenty cents worth of supplies one cannot write the name down of a hamlet of which the inhabitants themselves are not sure of its name and even when named, the name proves to be a foot or so long on paper.

Another strange thing is the money question in many places. That is, there are from two to five different currencies

in use. In Antung, Manchuria, for instance, the people use the Mexican dollar, the Japanese currency, the Japanese-Manchurian War notes, the Korean currency and the Korean War-notes. How one makes expenses in all these different currencies and they also differ slightly among one another, so which one shall one take? In Hunchun, Manchuria, it is worse yet. The Chinese there refuse to take their own money or only at a 12% discount, and they accept only the Russian currency. I had very little Russian money, so I lost several dollars in exchanging Chinese dollars and yet the official money for the entire Manchuria is Chinese money. It is on the whole very good that this is my second year in the Far East. If I had been sent at once to Manchuria I surely would have made mistakes which were irreparable, for let us suppose, now, that I had made my accounts in American currency as I did at first, How in Heavens could I have obtained other receipts from all these small and big places in the wilds of Manchuria and Korea?

On the large vouchers I haven't filled in the number or the date of authorization or the route of the journey, because I do not know how this authorization is dated, etc., not having received it as yet. I hope to receive it in Habarowsk, though, to where Mr. Greene of Vladivostock will forward it as soon as he received it from Peking. There is also no notarial or consular seal on them, for these things do not exist here as in America. There are some kind of officials here corresponding to our notaries, but they do not understand this kind of business.

As you see, the amounts for the past quarter come close to $1200, silver, or about $400 silver per month but I am afraid

the expenses will be much heavier here in North Manchuria and Siberia. Everything is very dear here. For 1,50 Roubles one only gets a scanty meal. They charge for a small beefsteak 1 rouble and it is not half enough for one. They say that the war has forced all prices so sky high and that there is a great scarcity of live stock. Well, it may be. A fact is, that large steamers arrive in Vladivostock from Australia and from the Argentine Republic and their main cargo consists of refrigerated beef.

Yesterday and the day before I saw here some of the officials who have charge of the forests and the lands here in the maritime province and I obtained information about the existence of forests and about the routes of travel. Tomorrow I hope to go ten miles northeast from here where there exists a forest nursery and where it is said I can obtain more detailed information concerning forests and crops.

We have had very bad weather now for about three days, rainy, boisterous and cold and they say winter will soon start. The Russians are putting in their double windows and tonight they have started the big stoves in our small hotel. Life here is yet very simple. The ordinary Russians haven't begun yet to live in comfort. Most of them would be overwhelmed if they saw the luxury of an ordinary American home.

Well, I hope the accounts are considered to be all right, and further wishing you all the best, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Habarowsk, Siberia.

November 9, 1906.

My dear Mr. Dorsett:

Last evening I sent by Russian parcel post 1 package to your address, containing 3 small parcels of cuttings. I trust they'll arrive in good shape. Enclosed are the 3 cards, giving the descriptions etc.

As you see, this time I am in the far North, but as the real Siberian winter has started, I won't go any farther this year, but I soon hope to proceed Southwards and go in zigzag lines thro' N. & So. Manchuria until I reach Peking again.

I received a tremendous lot of mail when I arrived here, a couple of days ago, but to my regret there wasn't anything among it from you.

How are things with you? I heard from Mr. Pieters that he has left the Dept. Well, well, that comes utterly unexpected to me. I really feel not very pleasant about it. He is a fine man and will certainly be missed in the service. I hope to hear some more details about it.

And Mr. Pierce has resigned, as my friends at Santa Ana informed me, so you'll get prob. most of the things from there. My! Chico will become a big place, I think I'll barely recognize it when I return some day.

Things here in the far East are as usual. Travelling sometimes in comfort, most times tho not. The total results up to this far not very great. The Northern part of East Asia is not as rich in vegetation as the So. part is and especially there is little

variety in cultivated plants. In Chinese Manchuria I hope to get some better things yet, but as a whole this is a country for staple crops and that great variety of crops which is to be found in the more So. parts of China is not known here. Fruits and vegetables in general, are brilliant by their absence.

I have been informed fr. Vladivostock that the box with seeds has been sent to you, so ere this reaches you, you prob. have planted some things already.

Well, Goodbye this time, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Habarowsk, Siberia,

November 9, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Last night I sent you by Russian Parcel post three packages, containing different cuttings, scions, and plants. They will go via Siberia and will reach Washington from the Atlantic. I wonder in what condition you will receive them; I trust in good shape, for they will travel cool most of the time. The Juncus plants, though, may not survive for that seems to be a very difficult plant to ship, but even if they die, I collected quite some seeds from them so that they will probably give us rushes enough to experiment with in the colder parts of the U. S. Do you know that I believe that in the near future we will be able to grow this matting rush all over the country and may be able to supply the world with our matting instead of Japan doing it now.

Enclosed are the ten cards belonging to these shipments. I sent the Nos. 561, 564, and 567 to Chico and if you think that the willows 566 and 653 will do better there, too, I wish you would send them too. The Nos. 569, 570, and 571, though, had better be tried in a

more northern locality.

Now I will come to the gigantic task of answering all your bulky letters. I received fifteen letters in all, among which were three duplicates and I will answer them according to date.

Letter of June 28, 1906. You ask there whether I consider that lotus seeds can be grown cheaply enough to warrant an expensive experiment with them. No, I don't think so. The plants want a tremendous lot of space and don't produce very heavy crops; but if somebody down south has a swamp with a heavy clay undersoil, then he may plant a quantity of plants and just try it. There will be wealthy people enough in America to buy these lotus seeds when properly treated, as a rare confectionery and as there is nowadays such a large demand for outlandish novelties, the thing may be tried, but I would advise first on a small scale. When down south, I will try to get a larger quantity of seeds than I got last year.

Thanks for your analysis of these seeds. I see I was pretty well right in believing that these seeds were very nutritious. To my stomach, however, I should say they were still more nutritious than chestnuts, but this chemical analysis says they are about the same. An experiment with the "Food Squad", though, will probably prove that the body received more nutrition from these seeds than from chestnuts.

In addition to this lotus question, I will tell you the very curious thing that I found the real lotus here in Siberia, in Lake Hanka. I collected by boat several of the seed vessels, but to my regret, the seeds seem to be all spoiled already, as the early frosts seem to have damaged them. I mentioned a few days ago this matter of Lutus occurring here in Siberia to the Government's botanist here, Mr. C. S. Yeftoscheffsky, and he said that he had heard of it but would not believe it, but not be-

ing presented with a seed vessel he said he had to believe it. I heard from a French professor here, Mr. de Toulaire, that the peasants had told him that the lotus also occurs in some lakes near the conjunction of the Amur and the Ussuri. Strange, is it not, that such a rather tropical plant has emigrated to these cold regions.

Letter of June 29, 1906. Containing notes on Manchurian plants and a lengthy one on Ginseng.

Yes, the ginseng business is somewhat too romantic to go into at length, but I may say that according to some missionaries, I have talked with, the ginseng has decidedly a medicinal value. In case of cold in the bowels and intestinal troubles it has been found to be very relieving and imparting warmth to the affected parts, but of course the Chinese ascribe far greater values to it and these things have not been found as yet to be true.

Of rare Chinese rhubarbs, I have not met one as yet. I will have to go in the mountains of Mongolia to find them, for all around here there does not seem to be rainfall enough for this plant. However, can I get them, I will think of Mr. Wagner of Pasadena.

There are some Botanical Gardens in the world which have nice collections of rhubarbs and it would be worth while to get into communication with them. So far as I remember, there is a good collection of them at the Botanical Gardens, St. Petersburg, and also many at Kew.

And in connection with this, I have to make you a proposal which which is of the utmost value to our country. There are many Botanical Gardens in alldifferent parts of the world and most of them send out every year their seed lists among one another and exchange seeds and even plants without extra pay. Now, in the United States there is nearly nothing done of the kind, and last year I myself had the pleasure of starting

a seed list in the Missouri Botanical Gardens at St. Louis, Missouri, which according to the numerous demands for seeds from foreign countries,proved to be very much appreciated. In return, of course, we got also plenty of seeds from all parts of the world. Now, my proposal is this. Cannot the U. S. Department of Agriculture collect all the different seeds from our large country and offer them in exchange for seeds from foreign lands. If started properly and kept up in good shape, it certainly will add a laurel to the good work done already. We willbe able then to obtain novelties or useful plants which we otherwise perhaps would not be able to lay hands on.

As an example, how handy such a distribution of seeds would come in, I may mention that I obtained here in Habarosk from the head-forester of the Imperial Russian Domains, Mr. I. E. Maskalefi, a collection of 22 different kinds of seeds from trees and shrubs growing here in Eastern Siberia and said Gentleman would like to receive in exchange some of our seeds and trees and shrubs, of which we think that they will do well here in this climate. He would like to have especially some nuts of Juglans nigra.

Then I got a collection of 15 different kinds of seeds from economic plants from Mr. V. T. Kovaleff, Government's Agronomist here in Habarowsk, and this gentleman would be very pleased to receive some scions of apples and pears that do well in our northern states. He says he has plenty of Siberian crab apple stock to graft them in, so they will be properly tended to.

I also obtained from the Government's forester at Nikolsk, Ussurinsky, Siberia, 7 or 8 different packages of seeds among which

were some rare maples and this gentleman would also be glad to receive some scions of hardy apples and some seeds of hardy trees and shrubs. He said he was willing to enter into a regular exchange of seeds from trees and shrubs between the Department and the forest-nursery near Nikolsk of which he has charge.

Now as I received these seeds, I would be very pleased if you saw an opportunity to send these gentlemen some of our things. A few packages of vegetable and flower seeds might be added, for there is remarkably little in this line to be seen here in Eastern Siberia. In regard to climate, I may say that the cold here gets quite intense in midwinter, n.l., the mercury freezes for some days nearly every winter. Spring starts late and is very dry; in June and July they get heavy rains and after that there is rather a lack of sufficient water supply until the next rainy season again. There is also hardly any snow at winter so the soil freezes 2,50 meters deep. I have not been in North Dakota as yet, but it strikes me as being somewhat the same climate, is it not? So, seeds of trees that do well there might be tried to be sent to these people.

Letters of July 2, 1906, are duplicates of the one I answered you already from Vladivostock. In this one, though, is the enclosure of Mr. W. J. Carr, concerning use of Consular mail pouches. As I have sent already packages of cuttings to the post office at Shanghai and did not hear as yet any objections, I think the thing will roll through all right.

Letter of July 23, 1906. Glad to see that Mr. Kennedy will ship the white-fruited loquats. I hope he packs them in well and does not send them off too late; they might freeze otherwise. I see they go to Chico, I had a notion it was a trife cold there in winter for loquats, but I may be mistaken.

The golden orange of which Dr. J. R. Hurfaker of Brookfield, Mo., writes are probably these large tangerines which are said to come from the different small isles near Foochow and Amoy and which seem to produce many more varieties of citrus fruits. I have had my eyes on these archipelagos there for a long time, and if allowed, hope to visit them this winter.

Payment of Bond - Premium. My best thanks to you. What kinds of things do you like best for your place, so that I am somewhat guided and do not get things which are useless. Please mention some of your desires in a next message.

I am glad to see that all of my seeds have sprouted, but I do not like a bit that so many scions and cuttings have not grown. It is so much work to get all the things, so it is not pleasant when they fail to succeed. Does cold storage hurt cuttings so much?

Letter of August 14, 1906, in the train enroute to Washington, D. C. Yes, I would not have minded a bit to have accompanied you in your recent trip to Texas. According to your descriptions, it must be a great country. It is really lonesome to be without people with whom one can talk about congenial topics. My interpreter is a white man, of course, but still his ideals run far from high and silence is often better than speaking, when one feels to enter a conversation. So and you, too, would like to wander, yet?

Yes, when that desire is once in your blood, we cannot get it out. After a hard and tiresome journey I say to myself, "Well, old boy, it is enough now. You had better settle down." But as soon as I have had a rest again and proper food and a good bed for some weeks, then I cannot be held down any more and when not able to proceed at once, I skim my many maps and plan fresh journeys. Do you know, some people are wanderers until they die? I at least have met quite a few, and mighty interesting chaps some of them are. But, of course when happily married, I suppose even the strongest wanderer must feel tied to his home with such pleasant and yet such strong ties as love and care for those he loves. Between you and me, though, let me roam around as yet; the whole world is mine! I just received an offer from a friend of mine who lives on one of the most beautiful islands in the South Pacific, to join him, but I do not think I will do it as yet. I am too young yet to settle, First I will skim the earth in search of things good for men, and having done this, then I will settle somewhere.

To my great sorrow, I see that Mr. Pieters has resigned. That comes utterly unexpected to me. Mr. Pieters has been very good to me and coming from the same stock, we understood one another perhaps better than is ordinarily done. I suppose the care of the office got too burdensome for him to feel like staying any longer. I think, though, he will be greatly missed, not only by you, but by everyone.

Yes, you had written me that John Tull was going to be in Japan for the purpose of getting the matting rushes. On account of

getting all my mail so much delayed, I am not able to write him, but I surely would like to hear his experiences in trying to get these plants out of the lands of the foxiest branch of the yellow race. As you see, I got matting rushes which will move at once the rush belt 500 miles or so northward, so I too feel rather happy, though, in general, my hard work here in the north has not been as successful as I expected. The Northern regions have always and always less variety as the milder climes and an explorer does not always harvest laurels, when searching inhospitable regions.

Professor Hansen of North Dakota passed through Vladivostock a few weeks ago enroute to the Syayes. I am sorry I was not there at the time. I had left already for my Northern trip. Did he find many things?

You speak about the Alphonse Mango. Is that such a fine thing? Pray tell me, where does it come from? I hope when I return some day to visit Florida and other parts of the United States for I really have not seen half enough as yet of my adopted country, and to me as an explorer it is of the utmost value to have seen with my own eyes the different conditions of our large land.

Letter of August 20, 1906. I have taken note of the new shipping agent at Seattle. Didn't things go well with the former. I shipped my box with seeds to him from Vladivostock, so it may be delayed somewhat if things have been transferred to Mr. W. E. Benson.

When down south I will ask concerning the weevils in the rice. Is that bad in the United States just now?

Letter of August 24, 1906. Concerning seeds of Asiatic plants for Mr. Henry Hicks, Westbury, Long Island, N. Y., well, all the seeds I collect I send either to you or to Chico, so it is not in my hands to give Mr. Hicks some. The conifer seeds of which Mr. Hicks writes are hard to obtain. One really has to live in the neighborhood of seed producing trees, so as to be sure to get them, otherwise, animals or other men get them. Especially is such the case here with the edible pine seeds. I have climbed already many a tree to try to get the cones but when picking them at the cost of having my clothes torn and having pitch all over me, I found out every time that squirrels had been ahead of me. At other times woodchoppers or Korean woodsmen had collected them already and one only finds the empty cones.

Letter of August 28, 1906. Yes, I collected some of the bugs and fungi attaching plants, but only in small quantities. To take photos of most of the things was pretty well impossible, one not being able to show details in the picture.

Of the soap trees is interesting, but is it really cheaper to manufacture soap from these pods than to make it from animal fats?

Letter of September 4, 1906. Concerning questions asked by Mr. William Macklin of Dinsmore, Fla.

No. 1. The size of the new Persimmon (No. 104 & 105) from the Ming-Tombs Valley near Peking, China, is very large, 3-1/2 to 4-1/2 inches in diameter, so it is somewhat larger than most of the large varieties of Japanese Persimmons.

No. 2. The color of the fruit is orange red.

No. 3. The habit of the tree is erect when young, but when older the branches spread out considerably, mostly on account of being weighed down with the very heavy fruits, which are so heavy that most Chinese prop the branches up to prevent breaking.

No. 4. The fruit has remarkably little tannin, which little disappears wholly even somewhat before ripening. Can be kept in a frozen state for many months and even when totally ripe is exported to far-off regions in such a frozen state. As a whole, though, the fruits are picked when beginning to show a slight touch of yellow and then being still hard and solid, are shipped away from the orchards. The fruits are all seedless and have a circular incision all around near the top and are of flat globular form. Of the other Chinese persimmons, I cannot say much.

No. 47 is a small fruited varieties--fruits of an orange color and of globular form. The trees are of erect habit and are not heavy producers.

No. 97 is also a small fruited persimmon, fruits of a bright orange color and of oblong form. Trees of erect habit. The fruits contain rather much tannin and must be fully ripened before being fit to be eaten.

No. 504-516. Collected near Shanghai. I did not see any fruits. Is said to be seedless and of medium size. Tree of erect habit.

No. 517. Collected near Tanghsi. Is said to be a large, seedless persimmon of very sweet taste. Trees somewhat spreading.

Can the shedding of the fruit of which Mr. Macklin speaks

be caused by lack of certain necessary elements in the soil? Or doesn't he have the proper varieties planted together, like one has to do with some pears? Or doesn't he have the proper insects to fertilize the flowers?

Letter of September 5, 1906, is a duplicate of oneI answered from Vladivostock. I may say, though, I also received the warrant on the Treasury for $2100.00. I did not, however, receive as yet any authorization, at least not on paper. I got tidings, as I wrote you, from the American Minister that a telegram had arrived for me confirming, renewing of authorization, but the thing itself is probably on the way yet.

Letter of September 7, 1906. I see that Mr. W. E. Geil will be in Shan Hai Kwan December 14th. Well, I hardly think I will be there at that time and although I will have to explore yet in all probability the Gobi Desert some day in the future in search for the valuable forage plants which grow there and which may be of use to us in the States of Wyoming and Nevada (See Bretschneider, Page 988, etc.) just now I am not prepared to go. You must know that there are not any inns or houses to rest in most parts of the Gobi so one has to take tents with him and very heavy clothing, and to prepare these things takes much time and money.

I first have to collect material in Northern and in Southern Manchuria and also in North China and I am afraid a good part of the winter will have passed before I arrive in milder climes. I realize more and more that this Asiatic part of the world is so immensely big, that I can explore for my whole lifetime and there will be yet many sections left which I never have visited and which

may contain many valuable plants, for here the one village often knows not what the other possesses.

Well, Mr. Fairchild, I will close now and answer the other letters in a next message.

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Habarowsk, Siberia,

November 10, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Today I will answer your financial letter of September 14, 1906.

Yes, it is difficult to handle these matters of finance at such a tremendous distance and with the uncertainty of mails reaching me. About returning the balance, well, I personally should say the very easiest way is to send me the rest of the appropriation minus the surplus left from last year's appropriation, then I do not have to return a cent and it would facilitate things with you, too.

That you should take the amount of money due from the months of July, August and September in consideration is not necessary from my point of view; this belongs again to the 1906-1907 appropriation and as such can be settled next year.

And now about the "dear"? question of the difference in money of which I wished you to be so kind as to explain to Mr. Zappone.

Item No. 1. Amount suspended in settlement No. 31,523, difference of one dollar. Why I bought a berth from Washington, D.C., to Chicago, Illinois, for five dollars on July 24, 1905, and then bought again another berth from Chicago to San Francisco on July 25, 1905 for $14.00, was because when inquiring in Washington, D. C., I was told that on account of the heavy traffic these days out West, the salesman of the Pennsylvania Railroad could not furnish me with a through berth to San Francisco and advised me to buy it personally at Chicago.

Item No. 2. Voucher No. 3, Subvoucher No. 17. Nine days' lodging at New-chwang June 12-20 inc., 1906. Yes, I arrived at New-chwang on the evening of June 11th and departed again in the morning of June 20th so that makes nine nights' lodging at $3.00 per day. As the voucher is for $27.00 I personally cannot see why there is an overcharge of $3.00 in it.

Item No. 3. Voucher No. 3, Subvoucher No. 20. Ten days' cart hire, June 23, July 2, 1906, at $14.00 Mex. per day. Yes, this is my fault. I paid the money in advance and got receipt for it and not knowing that when one pays in advance one has to obtain separate receipts, when the period of service extends to another fiscal year, I failed to obtain two receipts; but when arriving in Liaoyang this winter I will try to obtain another receipt for the $28.00 Mex.

Voucher No. 3. A difference in addition. Well, as the fiscal people are far more expert in matters of addition, etc., I willingly submit that my addition was probably not right, so the difference of $2.10 Mex. is settled herewith in favor of the U. S.

As I received this letter in duplicate, I herewith enclose these sheets pertaining to this beloved topic, so that it may save you some labor in hunting up the details. And believing that it will facilitate you when these financial matters are kept separate from more cheerful subjects, I herewith close, with best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Habarowsk, Siberia,

November 10, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Now I come to your last letter, the one dated September 21, 1906.

I collected quite some seeds of the red blackberries in which Mr. Taylor takes so much interest. There are two kinds and both are in the box with seeds sent to Mr. Dorsett at Chico. Their numbers are 357a and 358a, so if you desire to have some seeds at Washington, too, you might ask Mr. Dorsett for part of them.

Any species of Pyrus. No, I didn't meet many as yet. Pyrus ussuriensis and the Siberian crab apple (Pyrus baccata) were the two only ones seen as yet. I see the horticulturists are enthusiastic about the prospect of breeding hardier and better fruits. Well, with much patience and time they will originate most certainly hardier types of apples and pears than

the existing ones and in my opinion, here in Northern Asia is the real field to obtain them. Now this Siberian crab apple which occurs wild all over the country and which is extremely hardy, is well worth experimenting with. It is a most heavy fruiter, but the fruits are not larger than choke cherries, but to use this plant as a parent in hybridizing with larger fruiting kinds will produce, in my opinion, some very good results. I obtained already small quantities of seeds from them and will send you also a lot of scions some of these days.

I see in the enclosure you sent me that the horticulturists want to search the whole earth in conquest for better apples. Suppose, though, that before they go too far, they applied to Professor Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum. He has, in my opinion, the finest collection of wild species of Pyrus in America and from a plant improvement point of view, the materials in this beautiful arboretum are too little used or even known as yet.

I also got a letter from Professor S. A. Beach, himself, in which he asks me to look out for good apple material in this far Eastern land. I will answer him and mention the fact that my shipments intended for him have to go through the Department first in order to be indexed, etc.

When you want different species of Pyrus, there are many Botanical Gardens which have fine collections. When we have a seed list in the future, we may be able to exchange with them.

I see your note about obtaining greater quantities of scions this season. I will try to execute it.

When in Liaoyang again I will certainly secure the different varieties of pears there. It is a long way yet, though, and through a bad country. Could I but see ahead!

I am very glad to see that the Department is sending out already many of my things. After all, that is still the main point. My work, hard and trying often as it is, is only preliminary. The establishing is the thing. How do all these vegetables turn out which I send? I suppose the Americans consider them mostly as Chinese rubbish. Well, here we haven't got much variety in that line and as such I put perhaps more value on them than they are worth.

And you expect lots of interesting stuff from Manchuria this year. Well, I personally am very sorry that this country doesn't turn out to be as rich in vegetables as it is thought to be. So far as trees and shrubs of an ornamental nature are concerned, nearly everything is long since known and in economic plants, they are nearly all staple crops whichare grown here and offer little new. Fruits are in general brilliant by their total absence. Still, when in the real centers of intense culture, I hope to find some novelties yet.

One thing I find out also is that Manchuria is far too big to be explored minutely in one year. It is like America itself, "A country of magnificent distances," and searching the country intelligently will occupy a couple of years.

If these over-suspicious Japs hadn't prevented me from proceeding northward, I would have been able to cover much more

territory, for that long journey along the Yalu and Tumen Rivers has, notwithstanding its great hardships, brought in relatively little.

I also received a letter from Mr. C. V. Piper, concerning the great desire of the Middle Atlantic states to secure a satisfactory meadow and pasture grass. Well, in my box with seeds to Chico there are also many grasses and I advised Mr. Dorsett to send these to the Department as you probably would send them to the grass station at Walla, Walla, Washington. Of course, when you receive them, you will take some out for experiments at Washington, but let me say that the moist heat at Washington during the summer months will probably not suit the majority of these grasses. The grass, though, I sent you in registered letter under Nos. 470a and 471a and sent also the same quantity to Mr. Dorsett, is <u>most valuable</u> and will probably also suit Mr. Piper's ideals, save that it isn't very productive as a hay producer. I am very anxious to know how this grass will turn out.

I will give special attention, though, to the request of Mr. Piper in looking out for perennial grasses that seem to have the least value for pasture or for hay production. Up to the present I have done so already for I had a feeling that a request of this kind was on the way to me. I wish you would inform Mr. C. V. Piper of these things for when I write him myself it may not be found in conformation with written or unwritten rules of the Department. The letter of Mr. Piper was dated August 30, 1906, so this will facilitate you to ask him a copy of it for your office.

Then I received several official letters from Mr. Pieters written during your absence in Texas. As Mr. Pieters has left now, I will answer them to you.

Letter of July 27, 1906. Concerning difference of one dollar in purchase of berths. As I explained this matter to you in my financial letter, I don't have to do it here any more. But Mr. Pieters says to write to Mr. Zappone to explain this matter and Mr. Zappone himself writes so, too, but as I get trouble then again with you, I think you had better settle this matter and accept my thanks for it in advance.

This letter contained also the settling certificate No. 32523.

Letter of August 1, 1906. Containing a copy of the answers received by Mr. Dorsett on certain questions done to Mr. A. Zappone. "Looked over and keeping things in mind." F.M.M.

Letter of August 8, 1906. In which Mr. Pieters announces that a warrant on the U. S. Treasurer is on the way to me and in which Mr. Pieters expresses his special pleasure that you congratulate me on my work, as he feels sort of personally responsible.

Yes, I personally like it still more, especially from you, for I believe that you didn't quite know me at first, isn't it so, Mr. Fairchild?

Letters of August 10, 1906, one announcing the warrant has been sent off and the other one containing the valuable piece of paper itself.

I won't draw the money as yet. I will first finish my letter of credit, for here in the Russian country it is very dif-

ficult to handle matters of finance. Yesterday, for instance, when in the bank here, I was requested by the director if it wasn't possible for me to postpone my withdrawal of money until I reached Vladivostock or Harbin as the bank itself had no direct connections with foreign countries. Of course, I politely had to refuse his request. For what on earth have we banks, otherwise, is a thing which I would like to ask our somewhat stupid Russian brothers.

So now, I answered all the mail and have an opportunity to tell you something of this country. Firstly, it is getting pretty cold here. The thermometer ranges from 22° to 14° these last days and to make it still colder, there blows a sharp northwest wind which goes through one's clothes like the dickens. To show you how quick the winter fell on us, I may say that I swam yet on the first of November in the River Iman, near Iman City, and that evening a snowstorm started first nicely and beautiful, so I danced from pure joy in the first snow of the year, but the next day the snowstorm became an icy blizzard and as I was intending to go that day along the stream to find seed bearing trees of Acanthapanax ricinifolia which were reported to exist there, I simply had to abandon that project and instead of that, took the train to Habarowsk. On the road to the station, the people nearly froze, even the snow on our faces melted immediately into ice and so within 24 hours the real Siberian winter had all at once set in.

Between Vladivostock and Iman I have covered the country partly by carts, partly by train and also large stretches on foot.

In general it is a fine country for agriculture. There is plenty of lumber so as to build houses and for fuel purposes. The soil is mostly of a somewhat peaty or clayey nature and is quite rich. As such the people grow mostly oats, wheat, barley and buckwheat. Also they keep quite some cattle which find their food in the wild, tall grasses, which exist yet all over. In the mountains which look deep blue in this early winter and which are covered as yet with large forests, there is plenty of game from tigers, bears and wolves down to pheasants and partridges. Near Lerkoechofka we saw the large hollow poplar tree in which a big bear had its winter quarters a couple of years ago and in which tree he was shot also, but besides many game birds we didn't see any large wild animals. But there are many tigers and wild boars which both are hunted by Koreans and by the Russians. At a railway station a few hundred miles west from Habarowsk they shot two weeks ago a tigress and ever since the large male roams around in search of her. Rather pathetic, isn't it? But still, men must destroy these animals. It is either he or I and the I is always of more value than the he.

The dangers from outlaws, though, seem to be larger in this country than those from wild animals. We passed the spot in the forest near Lerkoechofka where a Korean was found murdered two months ago and on the train a gendarme told us that between January and now 180 people had been murdered in the stretch of country between Habarowsk and Wladivostock. That such news is rather unpleasant to hear is a fact with which you will agree, I

suppose. When we left Iman on November 2 every Chinaman in the train was searched for fire arms because a band of six armed Chinese had held up passengers the day before and had robbed a wealthy Korean of 3000 roubles. And a couple of weeks ago an armed band of outlaws had held up the train and had been chased off by the guards after the exchange of several shots, but nobody was hurt apparently. We havent, though, had any unpleasant encounters as yet, but of course, we don't go out in the country without arms. One ounce of prevention is better than one pound of cure, is the old saying.

The botanical part of this exploration trip isn't as successful as I wish. Nearly all of the trees seen are known already and those which are rare have universally no seeds or very little. I collected, though, a sack full of nuts from Juglans Manchurica, small bags of seeds from Phellodendron amurense, of which the wood seems to be valuable in furniture manufacture. Also seeds of the beautiful Amur-lilac, Ligustrina amurense, which I consider a very promising ornamental shrub for the colder parts of the United States. Then, we got quite a lot of seeds from the Cladrastis amurense, an ornamental shrub and tree which has a beautiful hard wood well fit for fine furniture manufacture. Also seeds of the beautiful Acanthopanax ricinifolia, a tree too little known as yet. Besides these lots of smaller things like maples, oaks, Pyrus ussuriensis and Pryus baccata, hazelnuts, Sindens, Panax sessilifora, Eleutcrococcus senticosus, wild grapes (Vitis amurensis) different wild grasses and several minor things.

In a box which I hope to ship to you within a couple of days I will pack all these things.

Now, about my plans for these coming weeks. To begin with, the beginning is that the heavy frost has seriously interfered with my plans. You must know that the rivers are full of ice and while it has firmly set on the edges, yet the middle is one mass of large and small ice fields with stretches of blue water between. And so we can't cross the rivers or do some of the road by water and I have no time to wait until this mighty Amur is entirely frozen which will occur in a month or so from now. So, I may have to return by rail to Nikolsk and from there go partly by rail and by carts to Harbin. But I haven't quite decided yet. When there is a change, I would rather enter Harbin from the North east, passing through a lesser known country where I may find new things. From Harbin, then, I will proceed as I intended--over Kirin to Mukden, where I hope to find mail again, which will be sent up from Peking.

These last days I have bought me some heavy topboots and a big fur cap and look like a real Russian, only the language is wanting yet. I personally like the Russian people. It is such a young, simple-minded race as yet. Nothing of our tired-of-life-ness or of nervousness is found among them. As a whole they are rather silent, but still inwardly contented. Of course, they are not the least bit progressive and this confirms as such the axiom that the most contented races are the least progressive and that the most discontented countries are the most progressive (Vide America).

The standard of living under the peasantry is rather low. Indeed, I didn't know that the white race could live under such conditions as I have seen. No beds in the houses, no undressing before going to sleep, a whole family all sleeping in one room, near one another, etc., etc. There hangs a general air of uncouthness over this whole race which acts at the same time on me as a lover of the wildness as a charm.

And such children they are. A fire-arm or a compass is in many cases regarded with a kind of respectful awe and I have had big rough soldiers beg me a leaf out of an American magazine as a souvenir from a country where the banner of Liberty floats and to which country they intend to go as soon as they see the chance. My heart leaped up to them from sympathy, for the poor chaps have often an awful time out here, far away from friends and family. One Russian sailor I saw in Shanghai who tore off the button from his cap and crushed it under his heels. When asked why he did it, the poor fellow said that the government has had his parents both shot and their house burned so what did he care for such a government. He begged me with tears in his eyes to take him with me to America.

If it is intended to let me stay out here in the East still another year, I wish you could be so kind as to send me some old magazines, if possible with many pictures in them; like "Sunset," and some more western magazines. I often wish to show people here things and have nearly nothing with me. A few old books will be welcome, too, for I never see English books or papers

any more and fear that I will become somewhat stupid when residing too long among lesser cultured races. And I have been asked several times what kind of fruits in general do well in the Northern states, so if you could furnish me a few catalogues from dealers in fruit trees, etc., they will be very much appreciated. One Russian officer wanted to know from me what kind of pears were doing well in Idaho, he having a notion that the climatic conditions here in Eastern Siberia are somewhat akin and then he would order some trees and experiment here. Well, I never was in Idaho as yet and could furnish meagre information about this subject. Are there perhaps any bulletins published by the Department about fruit culture in the Northern States? If so, the undersigned will be delighted to receive some copies.

The parcels with plants I shipped from Vladivostock through the post office at Shanghai to you had some among them that were wrapped in special good paper said to come from Korea, but bought in Vladivostock. Did you see that paper and did the cuttings packed in them arrive in good shape? An answer on this will be of use to me, for then sewing in cotton cloth won't be necessary any more and will save much labor. The paper is heavy and tough and I think will withstand lots of rough handling.

Yesterday I wrote my letter on yellow paper because I thought I was nearly through with the light quality of writing paper but I saw today that I have still another lot so I hope I have enough until I receive a new supply from you. You may address it to Shanghai. I also would be glad to receive a quantity of

seed bags of different sizes and metal tags for I run out of all these materials and can't get them here.

I also wrote the Yokohama Nursery Co. for a small bale of Sphagnum to be delivered at Mukden and to Mr. McGregor of Shanghai I also wrote for a large package of the same material to be sent by Chinese parcel post so I hope to get the material there in Mukden. I had been in hopes of getting such things here but, no, it isn't even known.

I saw a few days ago a collection of plants collected at Sachalin and I was surprised to see so many ornamental shrubs and trees there were among them. I think it would pay us to explore that island in search of new ornamental plants. The climate is pretty cold there, too, so the things would be hardy in the northern part of the United States.

As soon as I have packed in these seeds I have now, I hope to visit yet a region very rich in different kinds of trees south from here, where I may find some good things yet.

This city of Habarowsk has a very nice park at the bank of the Amur in which some parts are left yet as nature originally planted it. Large Phellodendrons and Ligustrinas are to be seen there. Further, the trees growing there are white and black birches, small-leaved lindens, spruces, bush willows, different species of wild prunus, different kinds of spiraeas, elms, two kinds of poplars, many kinds of maples, Viburnum opulus and some minor shrubs. It is a joy to me to see the sun set across the ice fields of the Amur and to see these beautiful silhouettes of white birches show off against the dying purple of the far West.

Well, Mr. Fairchild, the number of pages has reached fourteen, so I conclude with the best of regards to you all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Harbin, Manchuria,

December 14, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

As you see, I am in Harbin, but I have been very unwell here and didn't enjoy life at all for several days. I am recovering, though, again and hope to be the same once again in a couple of days. I had caught a severe cold while on the journey here and had to keep several days under the wool. I have looked into the wheat situation here, but there seems to be very little in it. The wheat is nearly all much inferior to our wheats. It is cold and unpleasant here in Harbin and rather dangerous. I will bless the moment that I am out of this d. country, which I don't wish to see any more for a long time.

Well, later on more.

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Hsiao Wu tai shan,
Chili, Prov. China.
Nove. 22, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Many things have passed again since I wrote you last and happily I am still alive yet, tho I have been on the edge of the grave. A couple of nights ago, when coming from the restaurant at about 8 p.m. I was attacked by 3 thugs on a very quiet street but thanks to my presence of mind, I was able to defend myself and escape unharmed. These are the details: When walking over the street, I noticed I was followed by 3 men, but I didn't take particular notice of it, as I didn't think, that it was so dangerous here; but all at once, I heard some rustling behind me and immediately a piece of cloth is drawn around my throat and they got me down on the ground. I received a few heavy blows on my head, but it didn't stun me, on the contrary - I was at once awake to the situation and knew, that if I didn't offer a stronger defense as the attacking party, I was a lost man. So I returned the blows in the faces of the 2 attackers, (the 3rd kept watch) and at an opportune moment I drew my large dagger and plunged it into the stomach of the leader of the two, on which he uttered a cry and immediately the vagabonds cleared off. I chased them yet for several yards, but they escaped me. Unhappily I didn't wear my revolver that night, as I really thought it wasn't so bad here as the people told, and so I had to let the scoundrels escape. I went immediately to the police and we searched the neighborhood but -

no results. The next morning the frozen body of a well dressed man of about 35 years was found, only a couple of hundred feet from the spot where I was attacked, so this gang, or perhaps another, had been helas more successful in their gruesome labors. The inspector of police even commended upon my energy and I felt proud to be an American that night. Of course, I have been a little nervous for a few days, for I was pretty close to the end, I know that, but from now on, my loaded revolver is always on a handy spot and a next attack, if committed the same way, I hope to resist more successfully.

In how far my main attacker has been wounded, is hard, if not impossible to ascertain. There are many dens here, where the lowest classes spend their lives and nobody could search them all, for a wounded scoundrel. I can say, that I don't like this city anymore. There are too many criminals here, who have escaped from Sachalin or are former outlaws, who were sent to this part of the country; after dark it is unsafe to be out. Only a few days ago again, 4 dead people were found underneath a bridge, all murdered.

I have been delayed here on account of my interpreter being far from well and I myself, do not possess knowledge enough of Russian, to transact my own business. And things go so slow here, that I personally think, that even old China couldn't do it much worse. To obtain 2 sacks of oats from the experimental station up here, took us just a whole day and to deliver parcels at the P. O. is a matter which occupies a whole forenoon; none of the employees knowing anything about parcel post arrangements with foreign countries and especially not with the U. S. of America. In Vladivostock I saw the Director of the P. O. myself, trying to ship cuttings to the Dept.

but he himself declared it was impossible to go beyond rules and - the rules at Vladivostock were such, that it was impossible to ship things. All parcels had to be in square wooden boxes, could only be sent to the German frontier and when sent farther a resident of Vladivostock had to send the necessary money to transmit them farther. Of course, I politely refused to have anything to do with them on such conditions and then the American consul was so kind to ship them with a Japanese steamer to Shanghai, from where the U. S. P. O. has forwarded them prob. since long ago to your address and to Chico.

These 4 parcels I sent from here, and of which I notified you in a recent letter, may have reached Washington, D.C., ere this reaches you. They told me, the receiving party would have to pay some money on them as the parcel-post arrangement doesn't extend to the U. S. Is this really so?

Now I have prepared 3 large boxes with seeds and hope to have shipped them to the Dept., before I mail this letter. This time I have rather large quantities of cereals which grow more or less successfully in this rather unfavorable climate. I suppose, they are since long well known, but yet, it may be, that one or two are not known yet and it may save time in some of the Northern States, to know that a certain kind does well in a similar climate.

The black oats expecially are considered very good up here and may drive the other oats out of the market in a couple of years. The other cereals are nearly all originally coming from Russia and as there have been several explorers in that mighty land, they are prob. well known.

There are quite a few conifer seeds among them, as you'll

notice. So Mr. Hicks and some other nursery men, may feel grateful to the Dept. if they receive a small quantity.

Of the Manchurian walnuts, I wished you would send the bulk to Mr. Dorsett, Chico, as he has asked me to remember him in this matter, when I came across them.

The small leaved linden, Tilia cordata, is a nice ornamental tree of small dimensions and may be appreciated by many garden owners.

These hazelnuts may be tried in the N. States where there are few fruit trees, and where as such a hazelnut even is appreciated.

The 3 Manchurian plants par excellence, n. 1. Phellodendron amurense, cladrastis amurensis and the Ligustrina amurensis are all three well worth growing and the last-named especailly, is destined to become a successful garden shrub all over the N. U. S.

Of Pyrus ussuriensis and P. baccata there are small quantities, so Mr. Beach of Iowa may be remembered, with a few seeds.

The wild grapes may be tried to give the U. S. a hardy grapevine of the vinifera type.

Of the Juncus I enclose a sample of matting and of some braid under No 622a, showing how well fit it is for the purpose. I personally think, this hardy rush will be well appreciated by you all, extending as it does, the rush culture all over the Northern part of the U. S.

Now, I obtained the large bag with black ~~otast~~ oats No. 673a, and the buckwheat No. 674a, together with the Nos. 669a, 670a, 671a and 672a, from Mr. Gagun, manager of the Agricultural Station here and said gentleman wouldn't accept any money for it, but would be too pleased, if the Dept., sent him some small quantities of hardy cereals and

and hardy agricultural crops from the Northern regions, for he said our crops here are mostly not hardy enough for this clime and we desire earnestly hardier crops for our people here. So if you see fit, I hope you may send some things to the Station up here.

In the smallest box of the three, I enclosed a pamphlet obtained from the Agricultural Station here, giving information concerning some crops here. Perhpas, Mr. Carleton of the Dept., may be able to find something interesting in it, as he is about the only gentlemen speaking Russian in the Dept., isn't it?

The duplicate notes are also in that same box. The lightest ones I send you enclosed in this letter.

In a few days I hope to leave Habarowsh for good and proceed southwards by train. In Ninguta, Manchuria, I hope to stay for a little while, overlooking the regions there and then prob. by train to Harbin.

I had a talk with the head of the Police up here the other day concerning my intended journey in sledges on the Amur of the Sungari, so as to reach Harbin that way, but he told us, that is was pretty certain, that I would never return anymore form that trip, unless I was escorted by a strong military convoy, for, he said, along these rivers the headquarters are of different robberbands, which escape the laws of both Russia and China and which take refuge in these wild uninhabited regions only to come out occasionally to plunder caravans or travellers. Now in how far this is so, I can't ascertain, but I think, I better take the heed, for, if something happened, they would say"we warned him, but he wouldn't listen, so we disclaim any responsibility and this

is not exactly a country, where it pays a man to be without some protection or another".

The climate here is real Siberia, it freezes every day and the thermometer was yesterday at 2°F. and it has snowed hard also the whole day, so everything moves now in sledged over the streets.

I do not know, at what time you'll receive this letter but I think Xmas must be either very near or over, so I wish you all the very best of everything, hoping another time to be again in your company.

I'll keep on counting upon the good-wishes of you all in this uneasy land and hope to pass thro all right.

I remain with best of regards, to all,

Yours respectfully,

(s) Frank N. Meyer

P. S. I shipped the boxes just now and notified the American Consul at Valdivostock of it. They'll reach you prob. in 6-8 weeks from now.

Harbin, Manchuria,

December 20, 1906.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Today I shipped a box with seeds to you via Vladivostock to Seattle. Of course, it will take a long time before it will reach you, but still it is better to be notified too early than too late.

The contents are not as varied or as rare as I would like it, but that is the fault of this country, for strange to say, I don't think we'll be able to obtain many novelties out of these regions. Nearly all of the stuff grown comes originally from the more southern regions and as such it is well known.

As I wrote you on the postal, I have been quite unwell here for about ten days and I can't say that I am quite the same yet. The cold and the discomforts are really too much in prevalence to enjoy life and then the dangerousness of the country with all these robber bands and these thugs which make people stay as much in their houses as possible. No, I will be glad when I have left Manchuria behind me.

When I was in Ninguta a couple of weeks ago both the civil and the military magistrate strongly advised me not to proceed to San-sin as even foreigners had been murdered by the robbers and when I left Minguta I got a convoy of four soldiers with me to accompany me to the station; for the evening before a merchant had been attacked again on the same road we had to pass over. Well, we didn't have any encounters at all.

These last days I have been looking into the wheat situation up here. Well, as a result I can say that it is not so that the wheat here is superior to our American wheats. The flouring mills here don't get more than 60 - 66 per cent of flour from the wheat and the grain itself is far from clean. The reason that the story came to be told that the Harbin flour is superior to American flour is probably because the exported American flour is 3rd grade and, of course, as such some of the flour here can be superior to that, but when one looks at the ordinary Harbin and the ordinary American flour then one sees at once that ours is whiter and cleaner.

In the box with seeds I sent you a sample of Ninguta wheat which is considered as one of the best wheats here in Manchuria.

In the future, though, when the Chinese use more machinery and do things more on a business scale, then I am afraid that Manchurian flour will oust ours from the Eastern markets. This is a splendid wheat country and it needs only guidance and cooperation on the part of the growers and then they will supply the whole Far East.

A short review of my last journey won't be unwelcome to you, I suppose, so I will mention that I went on November 24 to Corruskaya, a little distance South of Habarowsk. There it is all primaeval forest yet and mostly pines and larches. We couldn't do any exploring there for the snow was everywhere from one to two feet thick, but I got there a nice bag full of fresh pine seeds

which I enclosed in this box.

On Monday, November 26, we left Habarowsk by train and went to Hailing, Manchuria, where we arrived November 28. The next day we proceeded by carts to Ninguta for on one of the notes I have was written that fine white pears are grown here which are sent to the court at Peking and that also other fruits occur here. Well, about these pears it is not true, I am afraid that Liaoyang is meant instead of Ninguta and about these other small fruits, the natives told me that they are only to be had in early summer. I presume a Podophyllum is meant and also perhaps a ground cherry. (Physalis sp.) I got, however, some scions of a wild pear near Ninguta which is said to be nice.

On December 1st I left Ninguta again by cart to Hailing and then by train to Harbin where I arrived the next day. Yesterday I was in Ashe-ho, a large town not far from here, trying to get dry land rice which I was told I would be able to procure there, but there was nothing of the kind. I have to go farther south for that.

The trains here have strong guards of soldiers and at every station there are military posts and that is all for those notorious Hung-hutses, which are the terror of these Northern regions. Many soldiers have been killed already by them and they even mutilate their victims, just like the Indians did of yore. A bad lot, they are!

I intend now to proceed by train to Kwang Tsientse and then by carts to Kirin, but I will first find out about the

unsafety, for it doesn't pay to be murdered here somewhere.

There is here an American Consul, Mr. F. D. Fisher, and we had quite a few talks already. Mr. Fisher told me about the camphor industry in Formosa and how the Japanese are utilizing nowadays even the leaves and young twigs and how they are able to extract about 2% of camphor out of that material. Mr. Fisher said that the Japs have today practically the monopoly of camphor and that in his opinion it would be a most excellent thing if we could establish some camphor plantations in the States. He also said that there are two kinds of camphor trees in Formosa, the one yielding the precious product and the other furnishing the famous camphor wood so beloved by residents in tropical countries to keep their wardrobes in.

I myself do not know what the Department has done in this line, but knowing too well the tendency of the Japs to exclude all foreigners from their spheres of influence, and to keep everything for themselves alone, it might be a good thing to go into that camphor industry on a somewhat large scale. It will keep our celluloid manufacturers going, a thing which is not so sure, when Japan has established her own factories either in Japan or in Formosa.

December 21, 1906.

Today I sent one parcel containing three packages with cuttings to Mr. Roger S. Greene, American Commercial Agent at Vladivostock, Siberia, and asked him to forward them to the post office at Shanghai which office I notified to send them to the

Department at Washington. The reason I have to go into all that trouble is because this whole Manchuria is still under martial law and no packages for foreign countries are accepted. These packages contain scions of the Siberian crab apple and of a wild pear. Of the apples, there are quite a few, so you may give some to these horticulturists in Iowa for their apple breeding experiments.

It takes a long time here to send things away. For the box with seeds I lost nearly a whole day, for the people here have no business methods at all. It is like Mexico, "Manana."

I also received two letters from you. One dated September 21, 1906, of which I received a copy in Habarowsk and which I answered. Letter for October 16, 1906 in which you announce the receipt of my postal from Vladivostock. But didn't you get any of my letters from Korea? I wrote from Pyoh-Tong, from Kang-Ko and from Musan. They must have gone astray and such would be a pity.

Well, tomorrow I hope to depart so I remain with best regards to all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Enclosed the notes belonging
to one box with seeds and to three
packages with scions.

Kai-yuan, Manchuria,

January 15, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

You see, I am still in the Northern regions, but I am slowly approaching the somewhat milder regions and I won't be sorry for that, for the cold up North is very severe, especially when sitting on a Chinese cart between the hours of 4 and 8 A.M. Glad to say I have passed most of the dangerous regions, for so far as outlaws are concerned and also so far as political complications go.

This time I went from Harbin by rail to Kwan Tsientse. Then by cart to Kirin and from there by cart to this city. On these exploring trips I was lucky enough to pick up quite a few things which I hadn't collected before, like some new millets, beans, wheats and best of all, several varieties of dry land rice which grow excellently in these northern localities. You remember, perhaps, how I wrote you from Peking that I had had a talk with Mr. Hosie about the dry land rice and how said gentleman told me that he had never heard of rice occurring farther north than Mukden and behold--I got reports that it even grows in Petuna at the 45th degree latitude. It is too dangerous just now to explore around there, for there is a band of 300 hung-hutse plundering and murdering in that neighborhood, but I got several sacks of rice from near Kwan Tsientse and near Kirin which localities are on the 44th degree.

So, marvellous to mention, our rice belt is at once moved

into the Dakotas and who knows if it may not go farther North yet.

Of ornamental plants or fruit trees I didn't get much as yet up here. From Dr. F. J. Gordon of the Irish Presbyterian Mission at Kwan Theng tse, Manchuria, I obtained several scions of several varieties of Chinese pears and apples growing there. If you could do it, I wish you would send him a few packages of corn, the kind we eat as a vegetable, for the varieties of corn they have here are too coarse to eat. Also, if you have some improved strains of wheat, he would like to get some of it to experiment with here. Perhaps you might add a few packages of flower and vegetable seeds. Dr. Gordon is willing to send you in return things which we would like to have from these regions like more rice or more scions or seeds from crab apples, etc. I had a very nice Christmas with them and they were very nice to me and so I would personally like it if you could send him these few things.

These missionaries are very helpful to me and their homes are like oases to me in this yellow land. You, living among your own good white race, cannot comprehend perhaps what an intense longing one has to see at least a white face. As you know, the Chinese consider us as rather uncivilized and especially after this ever-to-be-regretted war between the best branch of the yellow and the poorest of the white race, they have lost considerable respect for us. When I walk through the streets like here in Kaiyuan, they even call me nicknames and laugh and sneer. The day before yesterday, when I was looking for an Inn they crowded in a big mass around me and began even to scold me. Well, then, although

I am rather even-tempered, I got angry and took hold of a ten foot pole standing close at hand and went at them, but then you should have heard them scream and see them fly in all directions of the wind. I then saw that they still have some kind of an awe for us. Of course, I didn't knock them down. It was only a scare.

Tomorrow morning I am leaving for Tieling, a center of bean growing and may perhaps obtain some more new varieties of beans and from Tieling Mukden is my next stop where I hope to find some mail and from where I hope to ship several boxes with these economic seeds.

I herewith enclose my accounts for the past quarter which closed December 31, 1906. I trust they will be found square. I may explain that the universal currency all over north Manchuria is as yet the Russian Rouble and will probably remain so, too, for a long time for the Chinese like that money. South of Kirin the Mexican dollar takes the territory again, but that currency will come to be reckoned with in this present quarter.

Well, from Mukden I will write you again. With best regards to you all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Mukden, Manchuria,

January 21, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Yesterday, arriving in this city safe and sound, I found two letters from you awaiting me. One dated October 30, the other October 31. Also a telegram reading, "INFORM MEYER WILSON LEAVES SAN FRANCISCO JANUARY 8 FOR UPPER YANGTSE BRINGING YOU INSTRUCTIONS. MEET HIM SHANGHAI BEFORE FEBRUARY 10. TELEGRAPH HIM CARE HONG-KONG SHANGHAI BANK. CABLE ME IMMEDIATELY. WILSON." Now, this "gram" is somewhat confusing. Does it mean I have to wire Wilson in Shanghai or in 'Frisco? And what shall I cable to Secretary Wilson? I will talk with the Consul about this thing, but I think I will cable Secretary Wilson the following. "WILL MEET WILSON SHANGHAI," and to Wilson, the explorer, I will wire c/o H and Sh. Bank, Shanghai, "WILL MEET YOU SHANGHAI. WAIT FOR ME."

This telegram rather upsets my plans for further explorations in North China, for I had intended to collect material in South Manchuria, North Korea and in Pechili Province, Shantung and more points in North China for I obtained interesting information concerning new varieties of fruits and vegetables in the northern parts of China, but I will have to give it up this time.

As you may know, China is one of the most difficult countries to explore on account of one not being able to obtain reliable information about things and it takes one years and years before one obtains information enough to make a really exhaustive search for the different things. Still, I will have to come back here up North at a time that I will have more time.

I will answer your letters now. About Mr. Geil who is not going now. Well, a very good thing I didn't rush to Shan Hai Kwan to meet him and then, if a man is so weak that his doctors don't want him to go, he had better stay away from these northern regions where the strong ones get stronger and the weak ones perish.

Now, your big letter of October 31, 1906. Yes, about returning to the United States. Well, I am afraid myself that I will have to stay another year, but then I will return, for it is not good for a man to be too long away from his own race. So I count upon it to return sometime between October, 1907 and April or May, 1908. At the same time I wish you would suggest to those having the power, to give me an increase in salary for the next fiscal year. Life here is connected with too many perils and hardships to warrant one working for a small salary, for one wears out much faster while roughing it all the time than when having a quieter life. And then, I will have to learn quite a good deal yet in other countries and will need some money for that.

About settling down in southern Texas, well, I first would want to see the locality, the climate, inspiringness of surroundings, etc., so I couldn't say anything definitely at this long range.

My intentions now seem to shape themselves as follows. Returning to the States between October, 1907, and May, 1908. Visiting different parts of the United States like the northwestern states. Seeing some of the experimental stations in different states. Look over Texas and different Southern states in connec-

tion with South and Central Chinese plants. Then in the fall of 1908 go to my native country (Holland) and see my father and mother who are now in the seventies and who want me to come very badly as their time is getting near and as I haven't seen them now for over five years, I don't think it will be considered sentimental when I myself, too, am longing to see them again.

Then, I want to pay visits to several Botanical Gardens in Europe, finding out what kind of shrubs and trees are worth introducing in the States. When possible, I want to spend a year in the St. Petersburg Botanical Garden, looking over the big herbarium of Asiatic plants there and seeing also what plants they have there in cultivation. At the same time I want to learn the Russian language more thoroughly for I have an inward feeling that I am going to come more in contact with Russians.

As you know, many parts of the tremendous Russian empire haven't been explored so to speak. That is, the world doesn't know what is to be found in some of these parts. The Island of Sachalin, for instance, seems to have distinct varieties of ornamental shrubs and trees. The region north of Omsk and Tomsk is said to have peculiar forms of trees. The Caucasus is well known for excellent apricots, grapes and subtropical fruits. And when in Kirin, I obtained information from a Russian Captain that Turkestan has many different varieties of excellent grapes, muskmelons and in the south even figs. Also a strange ornamental shade tree exist there and little-known cereals. Now Turkestan is somewhat similar in climate to that of Arizona and parts of Texas so there may be things there well worth securing. Now,

when through with my work in Europe, I am ready again to go back to Asia for I have really only skimmed a little edge of this part of the world and especially Central and Western China have so very much to offer yet.

You see by this that I am not at all tired yet of exploring. I only want to go back now and then and keep in contact with the needs of my own race and see their way of doing things.

Yes, I too am surprised that nearly all of my shipments to Chico have turned out so well. Mr. Dorsett is certainly well qualified for his work. I didn't think the distribution would be such a difficult job. You hit the nail on the head about Botanical Gardens, most of them are scrap heaps, indeed, and especially those in the United States.

I was glad to see that Mr. Tull's labors were successful. Did the plants arrive well? What do you think of those rushes I found in Eastern Siberia? I, here in my solitudes, love to call myself a builder of an empire, for moving rice, rush and lotus belts 500 miles or so northwards is somewhat of empire building, isn't it?

Yes, the different industries worth studying are many. The Bamboo one is the most important, the jujube perhaps, too, and the wet land cultures are quite useful, too, for us. Grape culture for the northern states is also quite fascinating and perhaps I will come across more yet.

I see your remarks about hybridizing of Japanese cherries. Yes, if you could get the clustering habit of the bird cherry (Prunus padus) united with the largeness of flowers of the Japanese

cherries, you would have an ideal combination. It is well worth trying.

As I wrote you in my last letter, I have passed now the most difficult parts of my journey. Now I have to hurry my collected cereals and beans in boxes (and there are 20 large sacks of them), ship them, collect some trees and shrubs in the North Tomb near here, get pears and ornamental trees from Liaoyang and neighborhood, visit Newchwang, get apple scions from Kwang-ning, pay a flying visit to Peking and Tientsin, catch a steamer at Tsing wang tan, and be in Shanghai on or about February 8. And then, I don't know. What kind of instructions will Wilson bring me?

I haven't received as yet the Gardeners Chronicles. Perhaps they are in Peking just now.

I also haven't received my authorization as yet. Did you ever inquire at the Department of Health about a permit to ship plants from China? Did you also send the lists of plants which didn't succeed, so I have to collect them again. Perhaps I will find some of these things in Peking again.

I got a letter from Dr. Barchet telling me that there are plants from Dongsi waiting for me at the Consulate. I surmise they are the Loquats. Mr. Kennedy must have made a mistake in addressing them. I wrote Dr. Barchet at once, telling him to send them to Mr. McGregor who will take temporary care of them.

Well, this is again a long letter. With best regards to you all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Newchwang, Manchuria,

January 28, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

This time I am in the main part of this Manchurian country. I made a hurried trip from Mukden to Liaoyang and from there here. In Mukden I packed in three large boxes with seeds and handed them over to the Japanese Transportation Company to be forwarded via Dalny through Mr. T. A. Christensen, Kobe, to Mr. W. D. Benson, Seattle, U.S.A. The American Consul at Mukden, Mr. W. D. Straight, has taken upon himself any matters that need straightening out in connection with a speedy forwarding of these boxes. This time there are quite a few nice things among them, like the northern dry-land rice, a few rare millets, some little-known varieties of beans, etc.

If you find the opportunity, I wish you would take a part of No. 719a, those small green beans, and make a sprouting test with them. The Chinese way of letting them germinate and sprout is this. They take an earthen jar, pour the beans in it, take luke warm water and pour that over the beans. Then put the jar on a warm place to let the beans germinate, refreshing the water every twenty-four hours. After these beans have made short roots, they pour them out in wickerwork or reed-woven baskets and keep them in a warm, dark place again, taking care not to let them shrivel from want of moisture and of warmth, by sprinkling them several times a day with warm water and keeping moist cloth over the baskets to prevent cold air from injuring them. After the sprouts are about 1½ inches long they are fit for consumption

and they are hawked out in the streets, being sold by weight.

Now the most favorite way of eating them seems to be this: lean pork is cut in small pieces, is fried with care, then when it is nearly ready the bean sprouts are thrown in the pan and the pork and sprouts are turned a few times only; then at once it is thrown on the dishes and it is ready for the table. When putting a little vinegar or some soy sauce over it, the taste is highly improved and I consider it one of the most palatable dishes.

A second way of serving which is more patrician is as follows: The sprouts at a length of 1½ to 2 inches are freed from their roots and seed lobes by means of cutting or clipping them off. Then some cold pork or cold veal is cut in long strips, only a few lines broad, the bean sprouts are steeped in boiling water for a few minutes only, taken out and mixed with the meat and by putting some salt, pepper, oil and vinegar over it one obtains an excellent salad.

In Liaoyang I obtained five different species of pears and of nearly all a nice quantity of scions. I do not think I will have time to ship them from here, but they are all well packed in and kept in cold storage, so I probably will send them from Shanghai. Today I have to arrange money matters here at the bank, pack my trunk and boxes which I stored with the Consul here and will try to cross the river tonight which is a dangerous proceeding on account of the ice not being frozen together because the winter here down south has been remarkably mild. If I am able to get over safe and well, I will take the train tomorrow morning to Kan pantse,

then by carts to Kwang - ning, where they have 3 or 4 varieties of apples growing. Then the next day back to Shan hai kwan and from there to Peking where I have different things to settle with the Legation about mail, collected seeds, etc. Then back over Tientsin where my Chinese guide has to see his relations before going down south, and then the 3rd or 4th of February I hope to be aboard a steamer in Tsing wang tan near Shan hai kwan and the 7th or 8th of the same month will see me in Shanghai.

It is, of course, very inconvenient to me that Mr. Wilson comes so early in the spring. It prevents me from collecting all the wild trees and shrubs I had spotted out, but--when the business is thought important enough to cable me, I have to leave my own plans out of consideration.

I also sent you by registered parcel post 1/2 of the quantity of Alfalfa seeds I collected in Liaoyang. You might try it then in the colder arid regions of the North. The other half I will forward from Shanghai. It was quite a job to collect so much but I dare say that very little alfalfa seed is left on that city wall of Liaoyang.

Enclosed are the notes on the material in the three big boxes sent from Mukden. Also a few war-notes from Manchuria and a picture of Lotus flowers, fish and children. Nice, isn't it? I got it in Kirin. These war-notes are being called in and if you are not a collector yourself, you may be able to please somebody else with them. That one dollar note is the one which is

going to replace all these war notes.

Well, I will close with best of regards to you all,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

February 8, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Yesterday I arrived safe and sound here in Shanghai after a four day's trip from Tching wang tan, North China. I saw Mr. Wilson and went with him, Mr. McGregor and Mr. Gappey to the Museum of the Jesuit Fathers at Siccawey and to the Nursery of the Shanghai Public Gardens. We didn't have much opportunity as yet to speak about the business details of the intended journeys but this afternoon I am going to see Mr. Wilson in regard to this.

I received a whole lot of mail from you while on my flying trip to Peking. I hope to answer it very soon.

The mail closes within a few hours and I just drop you these few lines to notify you that I reached Shanghai and saw Mr. Wilson. In a following letter I hope to be able to write you some more interesting information.

I remain as ever,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

~~314a.~~ 313a

Shanghai, China,

Febr. 16 '07

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Herewith I send you 14 parcels, containing scions, cuttings and plants. They go by American mail and I trust they'll reach you in good shape. The mail leaves very soon and I can't finish all my notes by that time, for I am all alone and can hardly manage all the packing, shipping, etc.

So I enclose herewith 2 sheets on which I wrote the few necessary facts of information.

I also got several letters from you, which ones I'll soon answer.

In Haste!!, With best regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER

587 - A climbing plant, said to be ornamental, prob. a celastrus, Kirin, Manchuria, Jan. 5 '07.

588 - A willow with opposite leaves. N. Yi Ma tchau, Manchuria.

591 - The famous fragrant water pear called Hsiang sui li, used in dried and fresh state by the Chinese, Liaoyang, Manchuria.

595 - A strange grass prob. valuable from the city wall of Kai-yuan, Manchuria.

596 - A very fine leaved sedge of use as a lawn grass, from same locality as above No.

597 - A medium coarse sedge for same purpose as the above, from the same locality too.

598 - A very coarse sedge. Of use as a lawn grass on shady places and as a fodder plant.

599 - A very good sedge, for some purposes as the preceding No. from near San tau lintse, Manchuria. May be very valuable!!

600 - A semi-coarse sedge from the same locality and for the same purposes as the preceding No.

632 - An apricot called Sui ten hen, said to be a very good one.

633.- An apricot called Huan Ten her.

635 - An apricot called Huan Ten her.

636 - An apricot called Yin pai Ten her. Said to produce silvery white fruits.

637 - An apricot called Wo kuo ten her.

638 - An apricot called Tu Hsing er.

639 - An apricot called Huang Hsing er.

Of the Nos. 588, 591, 599, 600, large quantities have also been sent to Washington, D. C. so these packages may be retained entirely at Chico.

Of the diff. var's of apricots I sent Chico all, because the climate in the East prob. won't suit these fruits and prob. there is also there no stock at hand.

Shanghai, China.

February 15, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

As I notified you nearly six days ago, I arrived in Shanghai in good health and spirits, and since then I have been very busy talking with Mr. Wilson and packing the material I collected while in Manchuria. As you know, the time failed me of sending the things from the North, so I am doing it now from this port.

I have been obliged to do it all myself on account of not being able to get an assistant, it being Chinese New Year, and I may assure you that I have had a rather difficult time in getting packing material, etc. Well, about this rather technical detail we won't spill any words, for at the other end of the globe you will be hardly able to understand how much confusion this Chinese New Year brings into the way of doing any business.

The mail leaves tomorrow morning and I am afraid I won't have finished all my notes by that time, so I send you herewith a list of the many things I send you. Please be so kind as to distribute them to different people when you are too busy at Washington to handle them yourselves for, I may say, some of these things may prove to be <u>very valuable</u>.

I received lots of mail from you and as soon as I am through with this rush I will answer them. In total, there are 59 parcels with cuttings, etc., to the Department at Washington,

and 14 to Chico. I also send you the remaining alfalfa seeds from the city wall of Liaoyang.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours respectfully,

In Haste!! FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

February 20-22, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

This time I am going to answer the different letters I received from you. It is a big pile and there are many things of importance among them.

Let me first thank you for the present of your pamphlet "Our Plant Immigrants" and for the 9 magazines which I received too. They will come in handy in the lone mountain regions in Shansi.

As you know already, I met Mr. Wilson all right. We had quite a few conferences about the work and as Mr. Wilson sent you a copy of the same letter he gave me and in that letter the main points have been touched, it is not necessary any more for me to go into details. Mr. Wilson left last Sunday at midnight and as we had nothing else to discuss, it would have been waste of time and money to have accompanied him to Hankow.

Of course, Mr. Fairchild, I myself am far from contented with these matters! As you know, I rather wanted to come back this spring, taking with me different valuable plants. And now you arranged this trade, notifying me only when the thing has been settled.

It is decidedly a loss to the United States that I haven't been able now to conclude my work in Manchuria. Many are the things which I could not obtain now on account of the hurrying down to Shanghai. And now after all, the thing could just as well have been settled by mail. The talks Mr. Wilson and I had could easily have been omitted and a few lengthy letters substituted instead of them, and I would have had a far greater satisfaction when I had been able to introduce some more of the products of the Northern regions.

Well, it has happened now, and it can't be changed any more. Perhaps next year we will be able to do some things.

I suppose you have a copy left of the open letter of introduction to Mr. Wilson. Well, I consider it extremely strange that you should put in such an open letter such things as that "The persimmons alone are worth more attention than you have given them." Who has been talking about such things? I wish you would be so kind and give me the name of the authority who told you about so many varieties around Peking. That is certainly a novelty to us up here.

And about photographs of the fruit showing its seedless character, well, you know as well as I myself that my camera isn't

fit for such work. Such things will necessitate a special camera with a special place to work them out and a 4x5 Kodak and dirty Chinese inns are not the factors one can do detailed work with.

I see you emphasize Mr. Wilson's being my superior. To be sure, we travellers always treat those who have done more than we have with due respect, unless they are not good characters. In this case, though, let me assure you, Mr. Fairchild, that Mr. Wilson has been in Western China and that I have been up North and that these two parts of China are as different from one another as Mexico is from New England. We found that out, both of us, at the first talk, so we were sorry that we couldn't give one another much advice, except only about collecting and shipping interests. Mr. Wilson's great successes in plant collecting are due to working under quite different conditions than I did. Firstly, he underwent a very special, costly training. Then he was sent to regions known to be exceedingly rich in new and unknown plants. Then he was sent out to remain three years in one region, so he made himself suitable headquarters and trained a number of natives to do much of the collecting and practically all of the manual labor connected with pressing, packing, shipping, etc. You see, doing things this way is quite different from the way I do it. If I had known that I would be kept in China at one stretch for a number of years and especially up North, I certainly would have worked in a different way, especially in regard to a few trained natives and in the way of making me good headquarters somewhere. And then after all, as you mentioned yourself in a former letter, Mr. Wilson's work is rather botanical and our work is of a more

economic nature, and to find so very many new plants of economic interest is endlessly harder than to get new botanical specimens.

After all, when I weigh myself on my own scales of self-estimation, I find myself perfectly correct. I may say, though, that if I wasn't blessed with a fairly strong constitution, I would have gone already, probably, to the Happy Hunting Grounds; for after all, sending in once in awhile a message in which one touches the difficulties one has to labor under doesn't at all convey the genuine state of mind one is often in.

Now, I come to the pile of mail. I will treat them according to their dates.

Yes, I found the new authorization No. 92 awaiting me at Peking. It is dated July 1, 1906. Also a packet containing a set of new vouchers and account sheets and a letter signed by Mr. Pieters dated July 25, 1906, stating I have to use these forms after July 1, 1906.

Enclosed in that packet was a letter from Mr. A. Zappone concerning these vouchers and some about depositing amounts to one's credit in the account current. Good Heavens, what will be the next. I sent twice already my accounts on the old sheets. I trust they will be found satisfactory. If not, however, then they had better send a trained bookkeper out with me and a few carloads of vouchers, payrolls, subvouchers, memorandum duplicates, current sheets, abstracts, appropriation sheets; well, in short, a regular banking and bookkeeping outfit. A few quarts of ink shouldn't be omitted!

Letter of November 8, 1906. Telling me about Mr. Dorsett being in Washington and you coming upon the Pistacia sinensis seeds No. 63a.

You ask how far the Wei tsan Mountains are from Peking. Well, there must be more of these names in existence. These Wei tsan where the pistaches grow are only 20 miles west of Peking. The foreigners call them the Western Hills and the foreign legations make them their summer quarters. But let me say, though, that the climate there is considerably milder than all around Peking; so the trees coming from there are not quite hardy up north. I think they will thrive as far north as Washington, D. C.

A copy of Mr. Waite's letter of September 25, 1906, concerning the dried pears. Yes, Mr. Waites' remarks concerning possibilities for dried pear out East are interesting. Well, I sent last week a nice supply of scions of the famous Hsiang sui li to the Department at Washington and also a good bundle of them to Chico, so I am in hopes a few years from now may see such an industry established.

Letter of November 14, 1906, concerning seeds of a Medicazo No. 183a. No, I am very sorry to state, I won't be able now to get any more. I found only a few plants growing on the grounds surrounding the Temple of Heaven in Peking. Next fall, though, I will try and get them again.

Letter of November 15, 1906, about plant names in Chinese. Yes, that is going to be a hard job. I am in correspondence now to get me an educated Chinaman who would be willing to accompany

me on my wandering and who could write the necessary number of characters and would know also several dialects. As you perhaps are aware, the Chinese do not like to travel and as soon as they have a chance of staying home they do it, even if they could make much more money by travelling around. My excellent guide I had with me up north has left me, apparently having quite enough of it. His excuse was that his mother is sick and doesn't want him to go any more out in the wilds. Now, when going to the Wu tai shan region, I will try and get me some good men. Whether I will be successful, though, is doubtful.

With the last shipment of fruit tree scions from Kwang-ning, I also got a list of the characters with them and Dr. Barchet is busy now having them copied in the proper way of writing them, for there are some mistakes in them. As soon as they are finished I will send them to you, then you may find some way of keeping them with the cards they belong to.

I enclose herewith all the cards belonging to my shipment of some days ago. The sedges and the grass nearly all went to Chico, it being five days nearer. The apricots, though, I sent there as there is no stock at Washington. One of these apricots is said to be silvery white, so if this is true, it will be a great novelty.

I send you all these things for what they are, not having had the time to make notes about them or even having seen some of the trees, as I arranged with the missionaries through correspondence from Mukden as soon as I found the unwelcome cablegram waiting me there. But apparently there are some fine things among them.

Of course, my work will not be quite appreciated until many years after but I dare say some of the things then will have been found to be very valuable.

I am now in correspondence to get more of the Chinese names of plants I collected and am hopeful to get the majority of the material I collected.

You are right in the question of jujubes about their value. I haven't been able as yet to find out the localities where the best ones come from, but I got information that there grows a perfectly seedless kind near Chi nan fu, the capital of the Shantung Province. There are also reported very good ones from the Tsechuan Province. I suggested to Mr. Wilson to try to get them for us.

When I am able this summer to get more information about these jujubes near Peking, I will get it, but the authorities who informed you there are such good kinds around Peking are mistaken. We have to go somewhat farther south for them. It seems that the Shantung Province is very rich in all sorts of fruit. My intentions had been to travel from Tientsin by carts to Chefoo this early spring and then I would have crossed right through this Province.

About this hardy bamboo around Peking, please do not think too much about that. It is not quite a timber bamboo and I haven't seen enough of it to say much about it. It seems to be Bambusa Metake and it is probably a somewhat hardy form of it.

The wood-oil tree grows not in the Northern regions and when I am some day in its native home, I will try to get all the information I can.

About Dr. Barchet assisting us in the acquiring of the Chinese names, well, let me mention one thing, Mr. Fairchild. Dr. Barchet is overburdened with work here at the Consulate and so are all the others, too, There are simply not enough people here and so I do not dare to ask too much of him. And then, the pronunciation here is so different from what it is up North and different characters are even used for the same thing, that that is going to be a hard thing. I will try to get an educated Chinaman. That will be the best thing. It will increase the costs and the labor considerably but it seems to be worth it.

Herbarium specimens. I notice the different remarks about these things. Yes, Dr. Henry and Prof. Sargent are right. It is better to have herbarium specimens, too, in connection with introductions. But in Prof. Sargent's case, he didn't offer the slightest aid to our work and didn't consider it even worthwhile to write me any suggestions or any thing of the kind. Then, from my own point of view, it will increase the cost very greatly and will make travelling decidedly more expensive and more cumbersome on account of so much more baggage. We will try to execute it, though, as much as possible.

My herbarium work is going to come when I get the assurance of being allowed a long time in one small area so I can get the different plants at different seasons.

No, I do not have that book of Brett Schneider called "Botanicum Sinicum; Notes on Chinese Botany from Native and Western Sources." I will be on the lookout for it.

I see the notes made by Mr. Swingle on the way of writing Chinese names. Yes, if the people out here only had a universal way of pronouncing the same word, but--well, even in the U. S. such a new country, we have distinct differences in pronunciation and in old China there is no end of dialects, especially so in names for local products, so I will have to be excused when I don't write the name as is adopted in some dictionary. We have troubles enough anyway.

Letter of November 21, 1906, mentioning a dwarf bamboo which Mr. J. H. Parker of Baltimore, Maryland, wants to know more about. No, I didn't meet such a bamboo as yet, but there are many dwarf ones in existence. I just heard that they grow in abundance in the mountains a hundred miles southwest from here. If I come across them, I will keep the matter in mind.

LETTER OF November 26, 1906, about alfalfa in Mongolia. Yes, when I hear of anything like it, I will surely get it.

You speak about exploring notes on which one should mention that there is fine hemp growing at Kirin. Well, I never got a note like it. If such a one has been sent to me it must have been lost in the mail, of which I wouldn't be surprised, for last year an envelope containing such notes reached me in much damaged state. Let me suggest to you right here that the Department should order a better quality of envelopes for its foreign correspondence. Very often they reach me in a much torn state. That is the reason I often use Consular envelopes. They are far better and the Legation envelopes are still better than ours.

Well, about this hemp matter, that you could use a hundred bushels at once! If the Department wishes so, I will get them for you, but it will be an expensive affair. I sent you a sample of a superior kind of fibre of a district East of Mukden. It seems to be about 3 or 4 days by carts. A hundred bushels would take a few carts and then from Mukden we could ship it by railroad to Dalny and then by way of Kobe to the States. I have written already to a missionary who is going northeast of Mukden in a newly settled region to be on the lookout for good hemp and let me hear of it.

In my boxes with seeds there are several lots of hemp, but it seems that that hemp coming East of Mukden beats them all. I had several talks with old Chinese about these hemp matters and that is what they said. There are no superior varieties of hemp in Manchuria. It is all the same seed, but, they said, hemp sown on new, rich soil, especially on such land where forests have grown, produces a finer, longer and stronger fibre than hemp sown on drier, poorer soils. The whiteness of the fibre and partly the strength, too, are greatly influenced by the quality of the water in which the stems are rotted. Fast running, clear water produces a whiter and stronger fibre. Standing, dirty water, on the contrary, gives a dark-colored material which is generally not as strong as the white kinds.

Of course, I dare say this information may be well-known to the growers, but still the Department might experiment with different soils and see if it really is so.

I see your question about wood nut oil planting. I will try and ask here and there. Haven't you a good book in Washington treating this important matter? Several men have investigated this industry and I have even quite a few explorers' notes in my possession speaking of these matters.

Your remark that Prof. Sargent is keenly disappointed at the non-collecting of botanical material is really somewhat comical. He never cooperated with us in these matters, so it would be just as much as if the Department people were disappointed when Prof. Sargent didn't collect plants of economic interest on his journeys. These two branches of natural science run somewhat from one another.

I did collect quite a good deal, but fate has been against me in these matters. I shipped two boxes with herbarium specimens from Vladivostock to Dr. Barchet, asking him to keep them in a safe place until I called for them and what has happened now? The vessel which carried them got caught in a typhoon and most of her cargo got badly damaged, the coal out of the bunkers being thrown all through the whole fore-castle. And I have recovered as yet only one box and this in a badly damaged state. When the postmaster here or any other responsible man of the Consulate hadn't been overburdened with work, perhaps the second box could have been found, too, but they don't have the time here to look after all these matters and so I think it is lost and--exceedingly unpleasant, just in that lost box were my rarest specimens. How I feel myself about it, I would rather not state. The best thing is not to think too much about it. It

would make one too sad. And how much work I did to procure them!

Letter of December 4, 1906, containing also a draft for $500.00 gold. Yes, I received these things at the Legation in Peking a few weeks ago. So my vouchers for July, August and September have been passed notwithstanding they were made out on the old sheetw. Let us be thankful!

Letter of December 5, 1906, with enclosures of a map from Mongolia and a copy on Mongolian alfalfa from Mr. Swingle. Very interesting, indeed. I spoke with Mr. Rockhill about the possibilities of obtaining the different things and he told me he had written to some missionaries up in Mongolia and expected to get the alfalfas at least.

I found many dwarf cherries myself and sent seeds under the Nos. 353a, 354a, 355a, 356a to Chico and No. 571a to Washington, D. C., from Habarowsk; also scions to Chico under No. 532. I do not think, though, that the plant has such a great value as yet. That is from a fruit growers point of view. The fruits are as a rule quite sour. As an ornamental low shrub, though, it is very nice; flowering with an abundance of whitish-rosy flowers and covered in late summer with an abundance of small scarlet cherries.

I took a photo of the fruiting branches of No. 532 and will send it in a next letter. I know myself that Mongolia has a few interesting things. I even wrote you some time ago about it. I hope you got that letter.

About these valuable alfalfas. I sent you by the last mail 1/2 of the seeds I collected on the city wall in Liaoyang

and from Newchwang. I had sent you the first 1/2. Did you get them both? They are under No. 721a. It is the ordinary blue field kind, though, (Medicago sativa.) How they come to grow on that city wall is a puzzle to me. I have been told that the Russians use to take their cows on that wall to let them pasture and perhaps some enterprising fellow sowed some seeds out there to increase the yield of herbage. The missionaries, though, were utterly baffled when I told them they had alfalfa on their city wall.

I also sent one small package of a strange, crawling alfalfa to Chico under No. 330a. Mr. Dorsett wrote me under date of December 22, 1906, that the box containing all these seeds hadn't arrived as yet. I hope it came since, for it was shipped from Vladivostock in October. I am writing now to the shipping agencies and finding out; for that box contains a host of valuable seeds.

Letter of December 11, 1906, containing explorer's notes referring to the letter of December 5, 1906.

Letter of December 15, 1906, in reference to an inquiry of Rev. Dr. J. M. W. Farnham in Shanghai. Yes, that is another sad story. You wrote Rev. A. Kennedy at Dengsi to send the white-fruited loquats, square bamboos, evergreen chestnut, etc., to the U. S. Consulate at Shanghai. Well, it seems they were addressed to me and as such, I got a letter from Dr. Barchet asking me what to do with them. I got that letter up North and before Dr. Barchet got my reply from there the plants had been kept in a cold alley. I don't know how long. When I wrote Dr. Barchet to turn them over

to Mr. McGregor of the Gardens, and asked Mr. McGregor to call for them, they were already in a sad state having been over-watered as Mr. McGregor informed me. I am sorry to say that the majority is dead already and those not dead are in a bad state of health. I can't ship them that way now. I wish you could be so kind and not write to such lay-men to ship such valuable plants. Most of them do not know how to handle a shipment and in cases like this the Department and its representatives lose considerable respect of the bystanders and that doesn't pay us at all.

I intend to see different people in and around Hanchan and hope to be able to arrange for a new supply.

I saw Dr. Farnham the other day and he was rather chagrinned to hear how the plants were. He thought they were still in Hanchan. He asked me also to give you his best thanks for the shipment of roses you sent him. They arrived in fine shape. The strawberries, though, seem to have rotted on the journey here.

Letter of December 18, 1906, concerning financial matters, n.l., unfeasability of the Treasury Department to deduct the amount of my indebtedness from my credit. Funny, such apparently easy matters are made so difficult.

Letter of December 18, 1906, II, I see you mention here the words, bamboo forests or bamboo culture in Northern China. Do you mean that term as we generally use it, i.e., from Chefoo northward, or do you use it like Fortune does, really meaning Central China. Up north there are no bamboo forests, the plants are only cultivated in the gardens of the well-to-do and have a

strictly ornamental value. Out here in Central China, however, they grow plenty of it as a timber bamboo and it seems to be a well-paying crop.

I will try now this time to get you a few nice clumps of bamboo from near Hanchan so that I have at least the pleasure of having introduced such a valuable thing. If I didn't have to go up North again and had returned home I would have taken a whole lot of things with me, including loquats, oranges, bamboos, pomelos, etc. If I am left alone, I hope to do it next year. I made arrangements with Mr. Wilson that after I have finished the seed-collecting at Wu tai shan, they have no claim any more upon me and I will be free again to collect plants of greater economic importance, like the afore-mentioned plants.

As you have written me in a few other letters, is not the descriptions alone of the photos you want. The material is the main thing. A description or a photo can easily be obtained, but to get the living material through is another quite different problem.

Letter of December 26, 1906 (in duplicate). I see your remarks about Honan. Yes, it is known to be the most intensely worked Province of China, agriculturally. I never heard, though, of its having remarkable crops. When up North I met a native of it who told us that they had some very big peaches there in some places. I will find out more bye and bye.

I bought me an aneroid-barometer at yours and Mr. Wilson's suggestions, but I am afraid the division of accounts will find difficulty with this purchase. It cost $75.00, Mexican, so I may

expect trouble again. I think I will put it under the item of camping material.

Letter of December 27, 1906, concerning the information that the Treasury Department might be prevailed upon to accept the withholding of my indebtedness as payment. I expect the next letter to mention the fact that they won't accept, so I am going to speak with the Consul about these matters. I don't know myself any more how much they owe me and how much I them. When I had a regular office where I could pigeon hole the different matters, it would reduce my work a good deal. Now my letters are all stacked together, and it takes a good deal of searching to find all these matters again.

Letter of December 29, 1906, containing an authorization (No. 1046) allowing me to extend my work in Korea, Siberia, etc. Was this letter necessary? In my first authorization (No. 380, July 13, 1905) was said----------and such other points in China and Northeastern Asia as may be necessary, etc.-------
In this last authorization there is nothing mentioned of the strictly botanical work I am going to do for the Arnold Arboretum! Won't I need another advice for that?

And now the last letter dated January 2, 1907. Yes, my escape was very, very narrow that time. I have had in my life several strange experiences, but this one was as close to the edge as I want to go.

Yes, you see, I am long since in Shanghai. The communication with the North isn't so bad after all. One can go from

Dalny to Chefoo and then to Shanghai or direct from Tching wang tan (near Shan hai Kwan) to Shanghai. It takes only three days from this last point, while by train to Hankow from Peking is generally three days and if one is lucky enough to catch a steamer at the day of arrival one is another 3 days on the Yangtse, also generally a minimum of 6 days, so having little time I took the Tching wang tan route, being the shortest.

You mention the fact that there will be some disappointment on my part of being retained for another year again. Well, most decidedly there is. And not so much of being retained as in being sent out to do this rather empty botanical work up North. I expected that I would be allowed to work out the bamboo and the wet-land crops in South and Central China. I hope the Department receives its money's worth from the trade you made. Mr. Wilson is very hopeful about the prospects of the Wu tai shan, but he never was in North China. Unless the region is quite different from what I have seen now in North China, I may say that my hopes are not as great, but let us see.

I see your suggestion about having the camera so fitted out that I will be able to take life size photos of some fruits. I haven't bought a lens as yet, but am negotiating with a firm here about a good one. I saw the beautiful camera Mr. Wilson has with him. It is really too good for this rough exploring work.

In looking over my accounts for the period of July, August and September, I see that my expenses were $1156.95 silver. Well, now, I cashed this warrant for $500.00 gold and behold-- $898.45 silver was the amount I got. Well, I think there must be

a mistake in the Treasury Department about this and if there is not--well, then, I can't stay out here any longer. I can't afford a loss of about $260 Mexican for three months. I think, though, they only send me a round amount and kept the rest for another time.

I wish you would write me about these matters as quickly as possible. Now, coming to this, I have a suggestion to make. I am dissatisfied with the way my mail is answered. Many questions I ask are never replied to, important letters are not acknowledged, and this is not at all a pleasant affair for me here. Sentimentality excluded, it is not good business. So I wish that if you are yourself too busy to answer my mail, you would turn it over to somebody else. If, however, you think you could manage it yet, I propose to you this: have a big envelope lying in one of your bureau drawers, with my name on it; when you are reading my mail, please make some notes on some loose slips you have laying beside you and when you are through just put them in the envelope. Then when you find the time to write me an answer, you just look over your notes in that one envelope and I am assured of at least getting an answer on a question.

Just now, I would find it very much to my advantage to know whether I am an American citizen or not. If not, I can't get the regular passport, only a letter of introduction and as there is a little unrest in Shansi and some antipathy against the foreigners it would be better for me to have the proper papers.

Then, I asked for a permit allowing me to ship live plants through without having them disinfected. Did you inquire about this?

Then the postmaster here refuses to send things to Chico unless I pay the right amount for them. He says he has only authority to ship mail matters free of postage to Washington, D.C., not to any other points. As such, many of my parcels have first gone to Washington, D. C. from Vladivostock to be sent from there to Chico. Of course, with live plants that is a pretty bad thing. Could you be so kind and ask a special permit from the Postmaster General allowing this postmaster at Shanghai to ship my things straight through to any place in the United States when properly franked, of course, with Government franks.

I also asked a long time ago for some more copper tree labels and seed bags. I am now almost out of these things. I expected to find some here in Shanghai, but there were none. I have still about 50 copper labels, running from 650-700, but when these are finished, I will have to use small tin strips. I sent a few already in some of the parcels. Do they carry their numbers well. I also have yet a whole lot of these aluminum labels running from 151-500, but as you know, they badly corrode in peat moss. I am going to experiment with them and see if I can make them corrosion-proof by covering them with some substance. If that goes through all right, I will not need any labels at all; strong seed bags, though, I need badly.

Now, I also wish to add a few words to the outline of this coming season.

When I am through with all my correspondence and this is on the increase and my wrist is again in good order, for I sprained the muscles in my right wrist while packing in all those scions in a great hurry, and I had it bandaged for several days, well, when these things are all right, then I hope to go to Hanchan and neighborhood and try to get some bamboos or make arrangements for getting them. After that I will proceed up to Tientsin to get me a couple of good men to accompany me to the Wu tai shan and I am writing also the Minister in Peking to see if he perhaps could find an educated Chinese to accompany us, so as to have all names and characters straightened out. Then in the early part of April I will arrive at the Wu tai shan and will make me headquarters there, probably in some monastery. Mr. Wilson concluded that the the period from April 15 to June 15 would cover all the spring work. What I will do during the summer I haven't decided yet. In September I return again to these mountains and stay as long as necessary. Then I am free again to do a more important work. Well, then I would like to go again to Manchuria and get the different ornamental and useful plants I spotted out last year. I also would make a side trip in Korea to get a couple of apparently new ornamental shrubs. Then I will travel through the Shantung Province and get scions of the seedless dates and of the plum-cot which is said to exist there. Also some new large fruited pears and some new vegetables. When through with this, I hope to arrive in Shanghai sometime in the latter end of March or early April. Then, I want to collect the differant kinds of bamboos, loquats,

etc. Also the many different varieties of oranges and pomelos near Ha Wenchan Twatau and Amoy and extend perhaps my trip to Canton. I will return before the end of the fiscal year to the States and would like to arrive in Seattle, go by rail to Chico, leave my plants there, go to Santa Ana and Los Angeles to get my baggage, settle bank accounts and see old friend. Then through Arizona and Texas to St. Louis to get more baggage which I left there and then come to Washington, D. C. where I will see you all. Then I would like to go through some of the States where different problems are in existence so as to get posted up. After that in fall time I want to go to Europe, see the old folks, visit different Botanical Gardens and try to find employment in the Botanical Garden in St. Petersburg, so as to look over the big herbarium there of Eastern Asiatic plants and acquire also the Russian language. Then after about a year's stay there, I am willing to go to Turkestan and Mongolia to get the many important things from these countries and after that, well, I don't know.

Now, the thing is, is there a possibility that I will receive some Government aid in these trips through the United States and Europe? It will make a great deal of difference to the United States and to myself, too, if there is such a possibility.

If there is not, I will sever my connections with the Department after the close of the fiscal year 1907-1908, for after all, these money matters together with the uncertainty of knowing what will happen to one are not things one wants to endure all the time.

When I was in Mukden and Consul Straight took me to the Governor General there, this gentleman asked me whether I was willing to take a position with him as an agricultural adviser and instructor and asked me what salaries are generally paid for such things. I told him, however, I was very much flattered with the offer, but I had too much work as yet to do for my own country so I couldn't accept his complimentary offer.

Now, in case I couldn't explore any more, I might go back on a thing like it and a few similar things I have had here and after having saved enough money I could explore again, for after all, as long as I stay single, I love exploring better than anything else. When I get older, though, I will go to a good climate and start plant-breeding work, for that comes next in my desires.

In a next letter I hope to send you some photos of my recent trips.

How are the many kinds of vegetables turning out? I hever heard a word about them. Have the big-fruited persimmons proved to be hardy at Washington? Is the grass No. 70 doing well.

Well, Mr. Fairchild, this is a long and important letter, from my point of view. I hope you will find the time to work it through and answer me. My writing has been bad for my wrist hurts me. In a few days, though, I think it will be better again.

With best of regards, I am

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

Feb. 21, '07.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Now I am going to write you a somewhat longer message, as the last one was. Yes, better tho' I'll first answer your letters.

I got 5 in all, dated Sept. 22, Oct. 5, Dec. 22, Dec. 17, Dec. 17, No. 2. I answered in brief those 2 first ones. In the one of the 5th of Oct. there was also that long invoice. Yes, I must say you have been remarkably successful with nearly all of my introductions. I hope that they have been as well with them at Washington, but - I think I have to go back myself some day to see how the things are getting along, for they do not take the trouble of keeping me informed about these things.

In your invoice I see that most of the grape cuttings are dead. So these hardy things do not seem after all to travel well.

Then the mulberry cuttings too died, well yes, they really ought to have been grafted, I think I mentioned this too, at least on the note belonging to 520, I did. I notice too, that the willow and poplar cuttings are marked as poor. So these soft wooded things do not seem to travel well neither. Still I hope you'll get a few started, for there are some very good ones among them.

In your letters of Dec. 17, I see that diff. packages have reached you, but as yet no box with seeds. Did that box arrive since? In your letter of Dec. 22, you did mention it as not having arrived. I'll write about this matter to the shipping agents. It seems also that some of the parcels from Vladivostock did not reach you; others again first went to Washington, D. C. Very queer these things go!

I am very glad tho' you got those seeds, 470a & ~~/~~ 471a & 472a & 473a for these things are probably quite valuable.

You see that I left the far North, not because I finished my work there, oh no. They cabled me to come down to Shanghai to meet an English explorer here who went out for the Arnold Arboretum at Boston and who will cooperate with the Dept. And so I had to throw my valuable work down up North and simply come here to have a chat with that other explorer! ------

Well, I won't get angry about such things, but I regret it tho', the way they seem to think at Washington about the work here. My interviews with Mr. Wilson, that 's the name of the other explorer, have resulted in this, that I am going up North again, but this time to an unknown mountain region in the Province of Shansi to collect botanical plants for the Arnold Arboretum and that Mr. Wilson will send in return economic things from Western China, where he is going to. So you see, I don't return yet this spring as I had hoped.

And now I see with an enormous surprise that you are going out of the Dept. too. Good heavens, why is that? I have some idea that the money matters are too much bother for you and that the people at Washington don't leave you alone, but of course that are only guesses. I do hope to hear from you a few details.

And Mr. Webber going also, strange! You say that you didn't get any plants from Santa Ana, well that 's another big surprise to me. Did not the living material in Santa Ana belong in a greater degree to the Government as the dead furniture, etc. I am wondering how P.P. squared these matters. He must be sure he got some good things among his half-stolen acquisitions, otherwise he wouldn't continue the things on his own hook. This is a strange world, Mr.

Dorsett. I also got a letter from Mr. Pieters. He seems to be quite busy in his new occupation. I wonder, tho' whether he feels happier. I wish the distance wasn't so far. I would like to have a talk with you people there and just hear why things go so.

I up here live in a state of negation. Away now for over 18 months from the U. S. and having been thru many adventures and experiences, I feel like a much older man as when I left. I don't mean physically. Oh no, I am a rather hardy kind of beast, no, I mean mentally. The passing thru many hardships and the necessity of getting as much benefit as possible out of these countries have increased my wisdom and widened my views upon this old world.

Probably within a year and a half I'll be back again in the States, for I don't want to stay out here any longer for this time. After I have been back again among my own good white folks and have learned a few of their needs again, then I am willing again to go. Do you know, I long to go back again among you folks, for after all life is rather poor out East. There are so many difficulties here, which are unknown at home and then always among a race which doesn't sympathize with our ways.

I enclose with this letter the notes belonging to the 14 parcels I sent you. After you have left, can I send things as usual to the garden? Is the Dept. going to keep the things in the same way?

I trust, when this letter reaches you, you have these parcels too already in your possession. Some of these sedges will prove to be very valuable? How does the garden look of late? Did you have a cold winter. So the sky-high praised climate didn't agree after all with Mr. Gougher. And you, too, seem to give it up quite easy. Is California then really not a country for men of much energy?

Well, questions enough this time. With kindest of regards and best of wishes for your further success, I remain,

Sincerely yours FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

February 22, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

At last I got a man to help me with the packing in of two boxes with seeds. He is a marvel of stupidity and has as yet given me more trouble than service. Well, we got the boxes off to the ship anyway.

The contents are six bags with beans, two different kinds and some black barley. The beans we got through the kind assistance of Dr. S. P. Barchet who wrote for them to Chin hua fu in the Chekiang Province. He couldn't get the right information on how they are used on the land, but it seems they are grown as a second crop on low lying rice fields.

The black barley I obtained in Mukden and it is said to be used in sweetmeats.

February 23, 10 A.M.

I went to the shipping office to get the bills of lading and they inform me that the boxes seem to be in a somewhat bad condition. Well, I wanted to see them but they informed me that they had left for the ship already. They seem to have been standing in the Japanese warehouse and I wouldn't be a bit surprised if they had monkeyed with them! Some rascal with a strong anti-American feeling might have done something to them. Well, I hope they reach Seattle anyway. I am informing Mr. Benson, too, of it.

I enclose the three notes belonging to the contents; also one bill of lading.

You see on the bill of lading they wrote in red ink, "Old renailed cases, etc." Well, the cases are not new, but they are exceedingly strong, having long nails and three hoops of band-iron around them. The moment I saw them last they were in very good condition!

I wrote Mr. Benson to make a protest against the agents, when they arrived really in a damaged condition, for I would rather not take the blame for somebody's wrong doing.

I hoped to enclose the Chinese names of the fruit trees but Dr. Barchet hasn't finished yet with them. He wants his best regards to be sent to you.

With kind greetings to all, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Shanghai, China,

March 14, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I send you four parcels containing cuttings of Viburnum odoratissimum and plants of grasses. They go through the consular pouch and I trust they will reach the Department OK. The four notes accompany this letter and so I needn't describe them any further. I may say, though, that the Viburnum and the grass 649 are both of great value to the United States, provided of course, that they haven't been introduced before and that they

reach America in good shape.

I send you also a set of photographs which I took during the past season. I took, indeed, quite a few more, but it seems that a couple of films were too old or spoiled and as such the pictures proved to be failures. There also seems to have gone astray one roll of film, in the mail, I suppose. Of several of the plants I took photos of, I wasn't able as yet to introduce the object itself, having had no time any more to collect material on my hurried trip down to Shanghai.

I also send you duplicate notes from various things.

I may mention that of the No. 646, 647, 648 and 649 I also sent half of each quantity to Chico so you may keep all of this shipment at Washington.

Now I got last night several letters from you and I will answer them herewith.

Letter of September 7, 1906. A duplicate which I have already answered. This one has only been half a year on the road, before it got to its destination; not so long, though, for the East.

Letter of January 2, 1907 (a duplicate) answered in a former letter.

Letter of January 8, 1907, concerning cuttings received at Washington. I am glad to see that most of them arrived OK, notwithstanding the long journey. I see Mr. Knight suggests not to use any more paper wrapping as it gets moist. Well, I am sorry I sent nearly all of my last parcels in paper. I myself experimented with paper and found out that it travels all right when there is some space between the different parcels, but when they

are stacked closely together and are subjected to very rough handling, then the paper wears out faster than the cloth. I didn't have a case, though, that the twine cut right through. How is this paper travelling in which I sent most of my cuttings from this city? It is almost non-absorbing and I expect it to be as such better than the Korean paper.

Letter of January 14, 1907, concerning Pyrus. Well, I sent several parcels of scions and also several packages of seeds from different kinds of Pyrus so I trust you will be convinced that I am as ever on the lookout for this important group. When up in Northern Shansi this summer I will pay particular attention to this question.

As you probably know, Mr. S. A. Beach has been in correspondence with me concerning hardy varieties and species of Pyrus and I mentioned that as I myself wasn't permitted to send things straight to him, he had better inquire at your office and he afterwards wrote me he had seen you on these matters. I also suggested to him to try to get the different species of Pryus from the Arnold Arboretum and--behold, I see the Department has acquired now this excellent material.

I see the copy of Dr. N. A. Cobb's letter concerning wood nut oil. Well, here in Shanghai, I can't get much information about it. I have to go far inland. When at another season I will have more time, I will find out more at the places where they grow these trees. I am writing Mr. E. H. Wilson now to be on the lookout for information.

The note of Mr. W. Van Fleet concerning Rosa Hugonis

is interesting but would you be so kind as to draw Mr. Van Fleet's attention to the fact that China is such an immense big country that a little more detailed locality is highly desirable, if we really want to get a certain thing.

The yellow rose I sent from Peking under No. 67 and 68 (Dec. 23, 1905) may also be a good one to hybridize with. It grows even in Manchuria (Mukden, Kwang-ning) and as such it can be utilized in the northern states. Were the propagators successful with the cuttings in making them grow? If not, I will try to send another lot next winter.

Letter of January 18, 1907, from Miss Bell telling me you had gone away for a month or so on account of ill health. Well, I hope you have returned since in fine condition again. I suppose you have too much administrative labor to do. Yes, I myself wouldn't be able to stand that either. There goes nothing above fresh air, a blue sky above one's head and if some mountains or lakes can be added to one's immediate neighborhood, then life is worth living.

I see about bringing larger quantities. I will try and arrange these matters.

Letter of January 28, 1907, written by Miss Bell. Also some more papers from the Treasury Department concerning settlements of money due and not due. "Overlooked and filed away for future reference."

I see my box with seeds shipped from Harbin hasn't been received as yet. Besides that one there are eight others on the road to Washington, n.l., 3 from Habarowsk, one from Harbin, 3 from

Mukden and two from Shanghai. I also sent one case with seeds to Chico and Mr. Dorsett informs me that it hasn't reached him yet. I am in correspondence now with the shipping agencies about it.

It seems to me that some of my mail must have become lost for Miss Bell mentions that only one letter from Korea has reached you. Strange! I suspect the Japanese have opened them and considered the information they contained as not being allowed to become known. They rule with an iron hand there in Korea and even in Manchuria, they have opened the mail of foreigners and not allowed it to pass through.

Letter of January 29, 1907, by Miss Bell. Yes, I saw Dr. S. P. Barchet several times. He is busy now, translating a Chinese booklet about the Zizyphus and when it is finished he will give it to me for guidance.

Dr. Barchet also had the right Chinese characters written for me for the different scions from fruit trees I obtained in Kwang-ning, Manchuria, and which scions must have reached Washington long since. I enclose the sheet herewith. The numbers on the right hand side are the numbers under which I sent them to Washington and to Chico. These characters may be clipped out and pasted on cards so as to preserve them better.

I enclose also an envelope on which I marked with pencil the only place where it wasn't torn when It reached me; showing the great need for a better quality of paper out of which these envelopes are made, especially for foreign correspondence.

I also received a couple of letters from Mr. W. D. Hills, Nagasaki, Japan, asking me information concerning hardy bamboos. I answered them as well as I could, although my knowledge on this topic is as yet in its infancy.

It also occurs to me that I omitted to mention as yet to you the receipt of three large parcels containing the Gardener's Chronicles. I got them in Peking and read them on the boat journey from Tching wang tan to Shanghai and they came in very handy after a short spell of funny feeling had passed away. It also gave Mr. Wilson the impression that I was well posted upon his travels, a thing I surely wouldn't have been if you hadn't had the foresight to send me these papers.

I received notice yesterday from Kobe that the three large cases with seeds sent from Mukden are on the road to the United States. I dare say you might have them there already for they left Kobe by S.S. Tosa Maru March 2, 1906. The shipping firm wrote me that the cases had been very roughly handled and that they had put them in good shape again.

Last year I sent you a parcel containing scions of the Chinese horse chestnut (Aesculus chinensis) and I asked you to send a few scions to Prof. Sargent. Well, in talking about different things with Mr. Wilson, he told me that Prof. Sargent never received any scions of this tree. Now, I would like to hear from you whether this parcel was received at Washington or not. I sent them under No. 81.

A few days ago in speaking with Mr. McGregor here about peaches occurring wild in China, Mr. McGregor thought that their

real home was in Persia. Well, now, of course, the name seems to indicate such, but is it proven? Could you perhaps give me any light on this subject? There are big mountain ranges in Persia and if the peach really comes from there, the wild types must occur there in the mountains.

I obtained through Mr. McGregor's kindness the many cuttings of the Viburnum odoratissimum and a big piece of the lawn grass and he also cares now for the loquats which came from Dong-si. Now, he would like to obtain some of the indigenous magnolias of the United States for the park here. Could you perhaps procure him some seeds or young plants of these magnolias? The M. glanca, macrophylla and cordata are the ones he would like to have especially. Of the M. grandiflora there are hundreds here, so that one can safely be left out. The Missouri Botanical Garden at St. Louis has probably seeds left of these trees, so perhaps you could procure them from there.

I haven't been out as yet in the interior. The weather has been rather rad, plenty of rain and wind and I wasn't able as yet to find an intelligent Chinaman to go with me. The intelligent ones here find easily employment with the business firms and a stupid one wouldn't suit me, especially now that I have to get the Chinese characters with the plants. I had to discharge the one man I had a week or so ago, for he was a little too shallow-minded.

Within a few weeks I will be up North again and then the summer labors are beginning. I have much correspondence of late

with different shipping firms concerning the cases with seeds and with missionaries concerning names of plants I collected, but I don't get many answers. Everything out East goes slow.

I do hope you have returned hale and hearty again after your trips. Did you go to Chico? A pity Mr. Dorsett leaves! They won't easily get again a man of his energy.

With best wishes to you all, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

P. S.

March 15, 1907.

Herewith a smallbox with eight bamboo shoots in it. Would it be possible to grow them? They clearly show the roots coming out I enclose also the note concerning them. On Photo No. 136 you will see them as exposed for sale in Shanghai. I would like to hear in what state they arrived.

F.N.M.

Shanghai, China,

March 14, '07.

Dear Mr. Dorsett:

Herewith I am sending you, thru. the Am. P. O. here in Shanghai, 4 parcels containing cuttings and grass plants. The notes accompany them, so I needn't describe them any further. I may say that the Viburnum and the grass, No. 649 are both valuable additions to our garden products, f.i. when they haven't been introduced before. I enclose also a photo of the Viburnum, showing what a fine shrub it is.

Just now I got your 2 letters, dating Jan. 12 & Jan. 21. They were sent up to me from Peking. Well, good heavens, what a

delay there seems to be sometimes with the things I send, for I see now that the parcels with cuttings No. 561, 564 & 567 reached you Jan. 11, '07. And I shipped them No. 8 '06. They were collected in the latter part of October, so they have been travelling around for 2-1/2 months and yet alive as I see from your letter. That is marvellous.

That box with seeds, sent from Vladivostock didn't reach you as yet? I am in correspondence about it, but the distances are so magnificent out here that it takes weeks and weeks before one receives an answer.

Poor Mr. Goucher. Cancer of the stomach is a very bad sickness, but when his constitution hasn't been run down too much, he can recover yet; altho he has to practice a severe diet.

No, I didn't read David Harum as yet, but the motto you mention is a very appropriate one.

And Mr. Tull was quite successful with his rushes? Well you see he went out only for that one purpose and - accompanied himself the material. I wish I had more bodies, I would do the same. Do you mean it really to suggest dear P.P.'s name as your possible successor? Of course, a man never knows what there will happen in this old world of ours, but I think we better leave him alone there in his lovely universal plant improvement garden, where the motto is "everything must grow here, but what doesn't want to grow, we don't want," as the words were uttered by his own highness mouth, during the sweet moments I dreamed away there.

I see you got plenty of disagreeable weather. Well we here

too got our share of it. Wet snow and rain were very much in evidence these last weeks, but to me, coming from regions where it was 30° below, it is a veritable summer.

Well, within a few weeks I'll be up North again and you'll be in the Capital I trust.

Let me wish both ourselves better luck as before. I remain, as ever,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Peking, China,

April 7, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

It is again nearly 6 days that I am here in the capital of the celestial Empire and within a couple of days I will be on my way to the Wu tai shan, in N. Shansi. The information I got here in Peking from the Minister concerning these mountains is not very pleasing; n.l., they are pretty barren and the formation

of the soil too is not of that character that produces rare or striking plants.

Mr. Rockhill loaned me a few booklets, so as to look over descriptions that have been made from these mountains. I will write the titles down, perhaps you may be able to look over them too in the Congressional Library:

Geographical and Geological Maps.

Bailey Willis, Geologist in Charge.

Published by the Carnegie Institution.

Washington, D.C.

A Pilgrimage to the Great Buddhist Sanctuary of N. China.

W. W. Rockhill.

Reprinted for the Atlantic Monthly, June 1895.

The Geographical Journal. London: February, 1907.

Nine Years Survey and Exploration in N.
and Central China.

On page 185, near bottom of this last publication is made the statement that in the forest near Jehol "Holly trees are common." Well, I never heard of holly trees in N. China. I think the author must have made a mistake in stating this.

On page 190, near bottom, is a statement concerning very hardy, fragrant yellow roses. Well, the yellow roses here in this part of China are not fragrant, so this must be a new one. I will be on the lookout for it while up in N. Shansi.

Now when these mountains are really barren, I want to stay there long, of course, but I will go into Hanan and probably Shantung. There are superior varieties of Jujubes in the Shantung Province and also plum-cots and very fine native pears, so I will try to get these things. In Honan I have been told good bamboo groves are found growing, and as the winter in that Province is rather cold, we may be able to get these bamboos for the cool-wintered regions of the U. S.

I am enclosing herewith the Chinese Characters with the English pronunciations of some of my introductions sent from different places. The numbers above the characters are my introduction numbers, so it will be easy to find out to which cards they belong.

Enclosed are also 2 Chinese visiting cards; the one with the 2 large characters is my name card; the other one gives the title and profession. You might be interested in them as a curiosity. A Chinese friend of mine, Mr. C. Y. Sun in Tientsin, gave them to me as a present, ie., the printing blocks and four packages of cards,--a very useful gift indeed.

The enclosed envelope has travelled a good deal, first from Yokohama to Mukden, then from there to Washington, D. C., then back to me in Shanghai, via Peking and now again to Washington. So you see it is a very good quality of paper. Now if the Department could get a similar quality of paper for its envelopes in use with foreign correspondents we would gain decidedly in respect.

I also wish you would be kind enough to ship me a couple of dozen note books. I mean the kind in which I make the notes which I always send with my shipments. Inclosed is a sheet to illustrate my wish. These books have no identification number, otherwise I only would write you the number.

I also received two letters from Miss Bell, one of January 29, 1907, which is a duplicate, answered already from Shanghai, and the other is of February 9, 1907, concerning peaches with an enclosure of a copy of Mr. R. S. Mackintosh's letter about the desirability of getting Brown-rot resistant peaches. I haven't been in the right season as yet here in China to find out whether there is really brown-rot disease among the peaches, but as yet, I haven't seen any among the late varieties of peaches.

The letter about these peaches has been in the wreck of the S. S. Dakota. I send you herewith the envelope as a curiosity. I sincerely hope that there wasn't any important mail for me on that boat for the Japanese fishermen have been looting the mail-bags and if a check or a draft was among the mail, it probably is lost now.

From Mr. Dorsett I got information that the long-waited-for box with seeds arrived at last after a five months' journey. I am very glad of that for there are some rare things among those seeds. I have been in much correspondence with the Consul and shipping offices in Vladivostock and our agent in Seattle about this.

By the way, I also may mention the fact that my correspondence is fast increasing in connection with these shipments and with missionaries and with no permanent place to stay it is

often hard to lay hands on the right papers at once.

In another separate letter I will send you my accounts for the past quarter.

I engaged a young Chinaman the other day to serve me as an interpreter in getting the names of plants. It is exceedingly hard to get the right kind of a man for this work, for the real intelligent Chinese do not like to rough it the way we explorers do. But when we think about it, wouldn't it be difficult too in America to obtain a man with a good knowledge of plants and with desires for travelling far away from his home.

I hear you have been in Southern Spain. Are there any postcards to be found in that part of the world?

With best regards to you all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Peking, China,

April 8, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Herewith I am sending you my accounts for the past quarter. They are properly sworn to, so I think they will be found OK.

I will explain a few things, though. You will notice the use of Roubles in the first days of January, 1907. Well, in and north and east and west of Kirin the rouble is the main currency; south of Kirin, though, the Mexican dollars are again

in use and as such, though Manchuria is in name Chinese, foreign currencies are still in use everywhere. In Kwang tcheng tse there are about seven currencies in daily use and they all differ. The Chinese seem to love these complicated states of affairs, but to us they are a tremendous nuisance.

You will also notice that the baggage transfer is rather dear. Well, Manchuria is a rather expensive country and then my baggage never consists of less than 15 pieces and sometimes it is even 30 or more, for I buy bags with seeds and carry them with me for weeks and weeks.

You also see that all my accounts are still made out on the ordinary vouchers. I received some weeks ago a set of different papers, but these are so complicated as to make the things very much more difficult than the old system. In a letter from Mr. A. Zappone it is stated that these vouchers have been especially prepared for temporary special disbursing agents; well, that is very lovely indeed. I wonder if the gentleman who prepared them has ever travelled in wild countries. The new vouchers are extremely big and cumbersome and one could never travel around with them in one's pocket. They are beautiful to use in an experimental station, but for a traveller they are not fit.

Then in a former letter from the Treasury Department signed by Mr. C. R. Layton, Auditor and received at the Division of Accounts and Disbursements on January 21, 1907, there is an item running thus: Repayment of the $14.00 disallowance which was noted in settlement 33,919 will still be necessary. Well, if that is still necessary, would you be so kind as to advance

that money. Then when I come back I will hand it over to you. I could send a money order but I hardly know to whom to address it.

The Minister showed me a letter a few days ago from a French bishop in Mongolia and therein was mentioned the fact that 2 liters of alfalfa seeds were being sent to Mr. Rockhill. It is, however, the blue variety. The yellow one, this missionary wasn't able to obtain.

When up in N. Shansi, I will inquire for this particular variety.

I also got a big Chinese passport allowing me to travel in Shansi.

Well, I close with best of regards,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Tai yuan fu, Shansi, China.

May 7, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

Yesterday coming back from a three day's trip south from here I found the following telegram awaiting me: "HURRY MARCH ACCOUNTS. WILL YOU NEED MORE MONEY OR WILL YOU HAVE BALANCE JUNE 30. HOW MUCH. ROCKHILL."

Well, it is very kind of you to go to the trouble of cabling even, but happily I am not in dire straits. I have enough money at hand to carry me through until July or August, for I

use my own money too in this work and next July that will be an amount of two years' salary minus personal expenses.

So when I get the balance of my expenses at June 30, that is perfectly agreeable to me. My quarterly accounts for January, February and March left Peking a month or so ago, so they are probably received in good shape, for they went through the Legation pouch.

It is a picnic, though, in this part of China with the money matters. The whole financial system is becoming upset for as the railways advance, the Mexican and the Hongkong dollars are coming more and more into use in the interior and small silver money is also becoming quite common; but--silver by weight is still everywhere in use and so are the infernal cashes which change in value from town to town and which are counted by actual and by nominal numbers. Truly a Chinese system of swindling and squeezing. I went to a Chinese bank yesterday to draw money and they wanted to charge me a premium of 30% when I take coined silver money. In lumps, however, I can get it pretty near at par. Fierce isn't it? Now, when I change these lumps of silver into copper cash, then the real picnic will start, for I will have to hire a special mule or a cart to carry this clumsy material and the one village will take so many cash to the dollar and another so many. Well, we have to put up with it.

Now, about another topic. Caesar of old went to the Senate and said Veni, Vidi, Vici, and I went to the Wu tai shan and came and saw and went away, for--it is a barren region. It is only around one or two temples, that one finds some clumps of

trees, but otherwise it is as barren as the plains of Nebraska.

It is only around one Temple that a little of the original vegetation is left and in the tree line one finds there one specie of larch, one of Picea, one of Pinus, one of poplar, two of willows, two of elms, one of oak, one of maple. In shrubs there are to be seen one specie of Crataegus, the shrubby crab apple, Prunus podus, Ligustrina amurensis, the wild gooseberry, a wild Rubus, a specie of Viburnum, a specie of Deutsia, a specie of Philadelphus, a specie of Sambucus, a barberry, a Viburnum-like shrub and an Amelanchier. That is all.

In alpine plants there seem to be quite a few, like the genuine Edelweiss (Leontopodium alpinum), different species of Gnaphalium, two species of Chrysanthemum, some Pyrethrums, Gentianas, Drobas and several minor things. I think in late summer one might find there some interesting alpines. The rhubarb grows wild, too, between 7000 and 8000 feet. I hope to go back there next fall and get some young larches and spruces because they are thought to be new. Also some of these gooseberries may be of use to us in the northern states.

I arrived at the Wu tai shan monasteries on April 20, but we had snow storms for three days and it was very chilly. I had to put on all my fur clothes again and we had a brisk fire underneath the brick bed. Not a single tree had any leaves on and only the flower buds of the poplars were showing some swelling. So, I didn't deem it necessary to stay in these inhospitable regions. I may give you a short itinerary of the trip. We left Peking April 11 by train a few hours south to Kan pei tien, then

by small train from there to Liang Ku tcho also a couple of hours. Then by carts to Hsi ling, the so-called Western Tombs. There we got heavy rains so I had to stay there a day and a half, but on April 13 we took carts again in the afternoon and arrived in Ta Lung hua, from there by mules for 7 days to Wu tai shan, where we arrived April 20. I took a road advised to me by the Minister, Mr. Rockhill. He said the other roads were all going through perfectly barren regions. This one might, perhaps, give you some vegetation; but no, beyond a few straggling shrubs, everything has been cut down by these everlasting greedy Chinese, and it must have been formerly such a splendidly forested region. The people living along our road were awfully inquisitive and rude. They tore the paper windows in some inns entirely to pieces so as to have a look at the foreign animal. I had to use force for a couple of times to dispel the noisy, impolite crowds. Buckets with water proved to be the most satisfactory remedy. The dirt and filth are beyond description in some of the inns, but I have become so hardy during this Oriental tour that it must be very awful indeed before it takes my appetite away, as it used to do when I first came to China.

From Wu tai shan I passed over Hsinton where I met some nice English missionaries to this city, Tai yuan fu, the provincial capital of Shansi. There are quite a few foreigners here, English missionaries, Italian ones, one American business man, Mr. K. T. McCoy, and four professors in the Shansi University. (This last is an institution for the Chinese with some foreign instructors.) As nearly everywhere out in the Far East the white man is good-natured and hospitable and they have invited me, several of them,

for dinner and lunch and I had some pleasant times.

In a last letter I spoke about the yellow roses in South Mongolia. Well, the day before yesterday I was in a district where thousands of them grow. A very nice shrub it is; I think, though, not as hardy in regard to low temperatures as others may be, for I didn't find it as high up in the mountains as the red flowering species grows. I enclose a blossom of it. It is Rosa xanthina.

In that same district they grow a fine kind of a rice (irrigated). It is said to be the best in Shansi. I got two sacks of it. As this region is over 3000 feet above sea level, this rice will do well in localities where the nights are cool, like the low-lying lands of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys in California, some valleys in Utah and perhaps in other mountainous districts of the Western states.

I expect some mail from Peking tonight or tomorrow and then I will hear again what is expected from me.

Before I left Peking, the Minister said to me that in his opinion the two best provinces of whole China for our purposes were Tsechuan and Kang-su. He said there are there all ranges of climate to be found and abounding in products which are little known to the outside world. So we may keep this in mind as Mr. Rockhill has been in some parts of these provinces.

I will start from here now within a few days, pass through southwestern Shansi to Pu tchon where fine varieties of persimmons are reported to exist, even rumors of a black-fruited one. Then go

through Northern Honan and enter Shantung, which of the north-eastern provinces of China, seems to be one of the best for our work and then when through Shantung, the summer will be well advanced and the region around Peking will be next and after that, the collecting of the material will be an immense job, for it will be over a big area that I will have to travel then. I hope nothing will interfere with this outlined plan.

I will have to come back here, too, for there are five different varieties of grapes reported south from here, one kind said to be particularly good, nearly black of color, and some very fine peaches are also reported.

Is there already another gentleman in charge of the garden at Chico? Have you got any Jujube stock, in case I send a lot of different varieties next winter.

Well, with best of regards to all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Tai yuan fu, Shansi, China,

May 10, 1907.

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

The night before last I received a big package of mail from the Legation at Peking, but to my sorrow, there wasn't any letter in it from you. I hope, though, you have fully recovered after your trip to such a nice quiet region as southern Spain.

I may hear from you perhaps the next time I get some mail which may be one or two months from now. Among my letters there was a request from Dr. L. O. Howard for some more material of the Celtis-galls which I sent to the Department in 1905. Well, I wrote Dr. Howard that I wasn't moving in regions now where I had observed any Celtis trees, so I couldn't send anything until I came again in the neighborhood of Peking this fall. Dr. Howard wrote me, too, to send the things direct to the Bureau of Entomology. I suppose you reached an agreement with him, concerning this -- I enclose a copy of his letter to put on file in your office (I received two copies).

I had also quite some correspondence concerning the supposed lost boxes with seeds with the American Consul in Vladivostock, shipping agencies, Mr. Benson in Seattle, Mr. Dorsett, and others. Well, it seems that the things are turning up, the one after the other. I hope they reach you there bye and bye in good shape and that you are satisfied with the quantities and quality.

Now, when my carts here have been obtained I will leave perhaps tomorrow. I am expecting final arrangements to be made tonight. Then I will pass through southwestern Shansi into Shensi. There is a black-fruited persimmon there somewhere and also wild tree paeonies. I am after these things. Perhaps they are things of the past, though, for not all products remain in this country. Some seem to get utterly lost.

There are also fine paeonies said to be in Western Shantung. Well, the winter temperatures fall often rather low both in Shensi and in western Shantung, so if tree paeonies do really

well in these regions, the Soutern Rocky Mountain regions may become splendid regions to cultivate these exquisitely beautiful flowers for forcing purposes and to distribute them all over the United States for this end.

As a forced winter flower it makes a most artistic effect in a tastefully furnished room, especially when put in an antique Chinaware vessel.

Well, Mr. Fairchild, do take things easy! Don't bother yourself too much whether you can finish everything or not. Divide your work a little more, for our body after all, is worth more than to ruin it by over-exertion.

I remain with best wishes,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

Tai yuan fu, Shansi, China,

May 11, '07.

To the Gentleman in Charge of the

U. S. Plant Introduction Garden,

Chico, California, U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Herewith I send you by Chinese sample post four small packages of seeds of various plants.

Would you be so kind to sow them out as soon as possible. They probably will all make sufficient growth yet in your long Californian summer, notwithstanding the lateness of their arrival.

With the exception of No. 725a they are all perennials, so it won't matter much whether they flower this year or not. No. 725 tho' will probably produce seeds before the frosts set in.

I am, Sir,

Yours very truly,

FRANK N. MEYER
Agric. Explorer, U.S.A.

Enclosed the 4 notes belonging to the seeds sent.

Peking, China,

May 20, 1907.

To the Gentleman in Charge of the U.S. Plant Introduction Garden,

Chico, California, U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Herewith I send you by Japanese parcel post, 1 package containing 2 roots, numbered 651. These roots were collected a few days ago in Shansi and are probably a new plant. They flower with a number of umbels of rosy-white flowers, very fragrant. The whole plant doesn't grow higher than 10 inches. Grow it in a rather dry soil. As Shansi has cold winters down to zero very often, you needn't protect it in any way in your climate. The note, belonging to this No. 651 will follow bye and bye in a letter when I have some more to send.

Hoping you receive this parcel O.K., I remain, Sir,

Yours very truly,

FRANK N. MEYER

Agric. Explorer, U.S.A., c/o American Legation, Peking, China.

Peking, China,

May 28, 1907.

My dear Mr. Fairchild:

Accept my heartiest thanks for the several sympathetic let-

ters I received from you these last days. It is very pleasing to me, especially just now, to find that you and the other gentlemen appreciate this difficult work of exploring here in China.

You see, I am again in Peking. In fact, I was here last week, too, but I went with Mr. and Mrs. Williams of the American Legation for a four days' trip to the Western Hills and came back just a few hours ago.

I am here, though, against my will. My men, that is, the interpreter and the guide, made objections in Tai yuan fu to go any farther in the interior with me, and they just said so at the very last moment, a mean trick! Well, I forced them to go with me anyway but the cowards bribed probably the cart men so we got entirely on the wrong roads and seeing this, I was obliged to return. I tried in Tai yuan fu yet for a few days to find me suitable men, but it was of no avail and so I returned to Peking and then my two Chinese left me alone again. And I had gotten these men on special recommendation!

I took with me to the mountains these last four days a new man who told me that if I was satisfied with him he was willing to stay with me for long trips, but just now he wants his wages and says he would rather stay around Peking or Tientsin. It is simply fierce with these people. They are for the greater part big cowards and if China really wants to become a world power, the Chinese had better cultivate a little courage.

Now, you might think that I am perhaps too exact or too hard on these men I employ. No, I give you my word, I am perhaps too lenient with them, but the big difficulty lies in this; as long as one stays in a large city they are well satisfied because they can lay on the K'ang most of the time and eat and drink nice things, and they don't have to exert themselves very much. The moment, however, one is on the road, then the trouble starts. They are not satisfied with the food, a little climbing tires them and they don't like the country people because the dialect is dif-

ferent and they are not so readily understood as in a big town and then stories of wolves or tigers are told and retold until they imagine the mountains are full of them and besides that, they imagine that at their homes things are going wrong and that upsets them totally. They get a kind of homesickness which increases the farther they move away from their places of residence. Really, in very many matters the Chinese are living yet in their childhood. It is fear and nothing but fear all over the whole empire, from one corner to another. And they love to cultivate a mutual distrust of their employer and their fellow-employees and their neighbors and of everybody. This omnipresent feeling of distrust here in China has in all probability more to do with the backwardness of public enterprises than anything else.

And then that lying and deceiving every time; men point out purposely the wrong road and tell you the wrong names for plants and try to cheat you as much as possible with money matters. Even yesterday in the mountains we had an example. Mr. Williams looked at a Chinese inscription on a monument and asked an educated Chinaman from what period it was. Mr. Williams thought it was from the Ming Dynasty. "O, no," said the Son of Heaven,"not at all, it belongs to this present reigning dynasty." Well a few moments later Mr. Williams came upon another monument and on that one it was written explicitly that these monuments were all erected during the Ming Dynasty. Question? Why did this educated man deem it necessary to lie to an educated foreigner?

Well, we will drop this topic. We can't fathom the yellow

mind anyway. The more one sees of them, the less one knows them.

My plans to go through southwestern Shansi,are, of course, all upset. I am waiting now for a letter from Mr. Kennedy near Hanchan concerning bamboos. I told him to spend, if necessary, several hundred dollars in getting the different varieties of edible and of timber bamboos around Hanchan and vicinity, but apparently it is more than he is able to do and as bamboos can only really be successfully transplanted in June and July according to the Chinese, I may have to go to the South within a few weeks to superintend it myself, for Mr. Kennedy speaks of planting them in six feet long boxes. Well, these boxes will be too heavy, so I will try to get them into vessels of smaller dimensions.

In other letters I will answer your letters. That one of 45 pages is a whopper. It will take me a whole day to answer it.

Peking is hot and sultry these days and dust storms are very much in evidence. One's clothes get full of spots and one's skin gets red and rough, but one's appetite seems not to suffer, so it ain't so bad after all.

I am very glad to hear you are back at your desk again. With a little division of your administrative work and a little time to work on your own place with your hands, you will never need to become sick again.

With best regards to you all, I remain

Yours respectfully,

FRANK N. MEYER.

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